

AL-42311/KF/1917
later MB
Rhondda Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR 1917.

TONYPANDY:

Evans & Short, General Printers, Bookbinders and Stationers.



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Rhondda Urban District Council.

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Assistant and Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—

¶ J. P. H. DAVIES, M.A., M.B., B.C. (Cambs.),
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Assistant Medical Officer of Health—

HELENA G. JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.,

Matron of the Fever Hospitals—

MISS ROSE E. SMITH.

Assistant Matron—

¶ MISS MAY SHELTON.

Inspector of Nuisances—

*J. TOWY THOMAS.

Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances—

||*GWILYM REED	...	Sanitary District	No. 6
||*JAMES WILLIAMS	...	do.	No. 3
*DANIEL W. JONES	...	do.	No. 4
*LEWIS T. DAVIES	..	do.	No. 5
*DAVID JONES	...	do.	No. 1
¶ *DAVID J. OWEN	...	do.	No. 2
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¶ *EDGAR M. THOMAS.			
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Shops Inspectors—

||*RICHARD THWAITES.
¶||*THOMAS OSBORNE.

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‡‡MISS MADELEINE JOHN	...		
†§MISS E. GERTRUDE JENKINS	...	No. 3	District.
§MISS EDITH GRIFFITHS	...	No. 4	„
§MRS. LAURA JONES	...	No. 9	„
†§MISS MYFANWY GRIFFITH	...	No. 10	„
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*§MISS KEZIAH EDWARDS	...	No. 8	„
§MISS SOPHIA THOMAS	...	No. 1	„

For Portion of Year:—

MISS GLADYS DAVIES	...	No. 6	„
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MISS SOPHY WILLIAMS	...	No. 7	„
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 Miss ANNIE R. JAMES.

In charge of Disinfector—

L. TRENBERTH.

- * Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 - † Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 - § Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
 - || Holds the Meat Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 - ‡ Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the London Sanitary Inspectors' Board.
 - ¶ On War Service.
-

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„ „ Hospital	...	47	Pentre
Inspector of Nuisances	17	Pentre
Assist. Inspector of Nuisances	No. 1 Dist.	3	Treorchy
„ „	No. 2 „	41	Pentre
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„ „	No. 4 „	13	Tonypandy
„ „	No. 5 „	3	Porth
„ „	No. 6 „	2	Ferndale

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT.

Area	23,885 acres
Population (Census, 1911)	...	...	...	...	152,781
Civil Population (estimate at Midsummer, 1917):—					
For Death-rate	...	...	...	...	154,388
For Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	172,099
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£755,375
Birth-rate for 1917	...	...	...	24.1	per 1,000
Average Birth-rate for 10 previous years	...	...	...	34.4	„
Crude Death-rate (from all causes) for 1917	...	...	...	12.8	„
Corrected Death-rate (from all causes) for 1917	...	...	...	14.1	„
Average uncorrected Death-rate for 10 previous years	...	...	...	14.9	„
Zymotic Death-rate for 1917	...	...	...	.8	„
Average Zymotic Death-rate for 10 previous years	...	...	...	2.1	„
Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 1917	...	...	...	1.0	„
Average Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 10 previous years	...	...	...	.74	„
Death-rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for 1917	...	...	...	.34	„
Infantile Mortality for 1917	...	...	...	103	per 1,000 births
Average Infantile Mortality for 10 previous years	...	...	...	140	„ „

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Acute Poliomyelitis	35, 96
Administration	60
Adoptive Acts	53
Births	16, 28, 88, 95, 101, 103
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	34, 96
Colliery Fatalities	44
Common Lodging Houses	51
Contagious Ophthalmia	41
Deaths	18, 88, 89, 90, 91, 95, 97, 101, 102, 103
Diarrhœa	36, 90, 91, 98, 100, 102
Diphtheria	29, 33, 90, 91, 96, 97, 102
Disinfection	58
Employment of Children	79
Erysipelas	96, 97, 102
Factory and Workshop Act, 1901	79
Food Control	63
German Measles	31, 96
Housing Accommodation	64, 89
Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909	69
Illegitimacy	17, 101, 103
Infantile Mortality	21, 88, 101, 102
Influenza	44, 97
Inquests	41
Inspectors: Summary of District Inspectors' Work	81, 82, 83, 93
Maternity and Child Welfare	25
Measles	29, 30, 90, 91, 96, 97, 102
Milk and Other Food Supplies	61
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	39, 97, 102

Notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	52, 92, 96
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	39, 96
Penrhys Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	49, 96
Police Court Proceedings	...	...	...	54
Pollution of Rivers	...	...	...	64
Population	...	...	...	15, 87, 89, 92, 95, 101
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	36, 96, 98
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	37, 96, 97
Reports during the year	...	...	...	52
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	29, 32, 90, 91, 96, 97, 102
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	49
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	50
Shops Acts	...	...	...	76
Small-pox	...	...	...	29, 30, 90, 91, 96, 97, 102
Still-born Children	...	...	...	20
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	37, 96
Tyntyla Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	45, 96
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	29, 33, 90, 91, 96, 97
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	34, 90, 91, 96, 99
Uncertified Deaths	...	...	...	19, 97, 102
Unsound Food	...	...	...	53
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	42, 99
Water Supply	...	...	...	59
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	29, 35, 90, 91, 97, 102
Zymotic Deaths	...	...	...	29, 90, 91

Rhondda Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF The Medical Officer of Health FOR 1917.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rhondda Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my seventeenth annual report upon the sanitary condition and some other circumstances affecting or likely to affect the welfare of the population of the Rhondda Urban District during the year 1917.

Although the general death-rate of 12.6 per 1,000 belonging to 1916 still remains the lowest for 40 years, that for the year now under review,—12.8 per 1,000 of the living population,—is only fractionally removed from that pertaining to the previous year.

On the other hand, both the zymotic and infantile death-rates for 1917 are slight improvements upon those for 1916, which had hitherto been the lowest in the statistical records of the Rhondda.

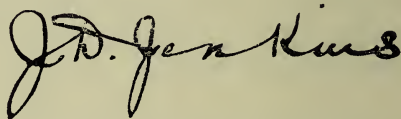
While the war has served to curtail the activities of health departments in some directions during the year, notably in connection with the provisions of the Housing

and Town Planning Act, there were considerable extensions of their duties and obligations in other directions, such as the administration of many of the Orders issued by the Ministry of Food, the supervision of and exchange of information concerning Rhondda residents in the army or navy home on sick leave as a result of infectious diseases, and the control of measles.

Although it has, unfortunately, proved impracticable to engage the professional assistance required to perform all the duties,—optional and obligatory,—now devolving upon the health departments of local authorities, it is satisfactory that notwithstanding the limitations imposed by the conditions produced by the war, means were found in the course of the year to extend the scheme designed to promote the welfare of mothers and infants in the district.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.D. Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Council Offices,
Rhondda.

POPULATION.

1911 (last Census year)	152,781
1917 (Registrar General's estimate for death-rate)	154,388
1917 (Registrar General's estimate for birth-rate)	172,099

The estimate of 172,099 persons given above is that of the Registrar General for the civil population of the district for 1917. The influence which war conditions have exercised upon the distribution of the population was demonstrated by certain statistics obtained by sanitary inspectors early in 1917. The conclusions given below are based upon a consideration of the data obtained by an inspection of 3,137 houses which were typical of the district generally, were distributed in many localities, and formed in the aggregate about one-ninth of the total number of the inhabited houses in the urban area. These figures indicate:—

(1) that there has been since the beginning of the war a reduction of the total population of the district by 8,903 persons, equivalent to 5.7 per cent. ;

(2) that, if analysed, this reduction is found to be greatest among males over 10 years of age, in whom it amounts to 14.2 per cent. ;

(3) that even in children under 10 years of age the diminution has amounted to 4.9 per cent. ; and

(4) that the only apparent increase among the considered age-groups has taken place in females over 10 years of age, the extent of such increase amounting to 5.0 per cent. of the pre-war number.

It may be confidently asserted that the process leading to the conditions thus disclosed early in the year con-

tinued to operate throughout its course and that the changes indicated have progressed uninterruptedly in the same directions, though perhaps not at so high a rate as at the beginning of the war.

Though men employed in the coal-mines have hitherto been exempt from compulsory military service, large numbers of local colliers enlisted after the outbreak of the war, but the places in the mines thus rendered vacant have been to some extent filled by the immigration of men from all over the country and by the employment of a considerable number of workmen now and formerly residing outside the Rhondda Urban District. In October, 1917, an enumeration was made of the workmen thus daily entering and leaving the district by the three main avenues at Trehafod, Penygraig, and Blaenycwm, and the total amounted to approximately 2,000 persons.

BIRTHS.

	1917.	Average for Ten Years. 1907-1916.
Number of Births	4,145	5,274
Birth-rate in Rhondda	24.1	34.4
Birth-rate in England and Wales...	17.8	24.1

The decrease in the number of births recorded in 1916 was continued in 1917, the annual totals for the two years being 4,481 and 4,145 respectively, whereas the average annual number of births for the five previous years was 5,153, or 1,008 more than in 1917.

The birth-rate of 24.1 per 1,000 is the lowest in the statistical records of the Rhondda, and is 10.3 less than the average rate for the ten previous years, but it is nevertheless 6.3 per 1,000 above that for England and Wales as a whole, and 6.0 above that of the 96 Great Towns.

The "natural increase" in the population, or the excess of births over deaths which occurred during the year, amounted to 2,168.

The numbers of births in the four quarters of the year were 1,016, 1,031, 1,054, and 1,044 respectively.

There was a marked excess of male over female births,—2,173 to 1,972, or a difference of 201, the corresponding figure for 1916 being 53.

(See Appendix, Table 7, for birth statistics).

ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births recorded as belonging to the Rhondda amounted to 113, as compared with 160, 147, 139, 146, and 106 for the five preceding years.

The total number of illegitimate births for the year yields a rate of .66 per 1,000 of the population, and 27 per 1,000 of the total births, the corresponding rates for England and Wales being 1.0 and 48 in 1916, those for 1917 not being yet available.

If however the comparison be based upon the ratio between the number of illegitimate births and the number of unmarried women between the ages of 15 and 45, the result is unfavourable to the Rhondda, for by this method the rate pertaining to England and Wales as a whole is estimated at 7.6 per 1,000 unmarried women of conceptive age in 1916, whereas the corresponding rate for the Rhondda in the same year was estimated at 8.3, and in 1917, 8.7 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

			Average for Ten Years.
			1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Deaths ... ..	...	1,977	2,252
Rate per 1,000 in Rhondda ... ..	...	12.8	14.9
„ „ 96 Great Towns ... ..	...	14.6	—
„ „ England and Wales ... ..	...	14.4	14.2

The total number of deaths registered in the district throughout 1917 amounted to 1,851, of which 25, including the deaths of three soldiers, were of people not belonging to the Rhondda. On the other hand, to the number of 1,826 thus arrived at must be added the deaths of 151 Rhondda residents which occurred outside the area and which consequently were registered elsewhere, a nett total of 1,977 deaths of persons belonging to the district being thus reached. Among the 151 deaths of persons belonging to the Rhondda which occurred elsewhere, there were 29 at Cardiff Infirmary, 58 at Bridgend Asylum, 19 at Pontypridd Workhouse, 13 at Sanatoria, and 32 at various other places.

The general death-rate of 12.8 per 1,000 of the living population thus occasioned by the total of 1,977 deaths is the lowest annual death-rate recorded for the Rhondda with the single exception of the 12.6 per 1,000 pertaining to the previous year (1916). When allowance is made for the differences of age and sex distribution in the district as ascertained to have existed at the last census in 1911, this “crude” death-rate of 12.8 must be increased to 14.1 per 1,000, in order to determine the “corrected” death-rate for the area for 1917.

In respect of its death-rate the Rhondda occupied the 26th position among the 96 Great Towns in England and Wales, its place among the Welsh group being between Aberdare and Cardiff with the 21st and 22nd positions on the one hand, and Newport, Merthyr, and Swansea, with the 29th, 40th, and 48th positions, on the other hand.

The diseases to which most of the deaths were ascribed consisted of pneumonia (all forms), bronchitis, heart disease, congenital debility, and malformations (including premature birth), phthisis, lobular pneumonia, cancer, various forms of violence, and cerebral hæmorrhage, with the respective totals of 225, 222, 181, 173, 153, 149, 91, 79, and 78 (Table III. Appendix).

The number and percentage proportions of the deaths divided into their respective age-groups which occurred in the Rhondda during the year are as follow :—

- 425, or 21 per cent., under 1 year of age.
- 129, or 7 per cent., 1 year and under 2 years.
- 116, or 6 per cent., 2 years and under 5 years.
- 95, or 5 per cent., 5 years and under 15 years.
- 113, or 6 per cent., 15 years and under 25 years.
- 280, or 14 per cent., 25 years and under 45 years.
- 492, or 25 per cent., 45 years and under 65 years.
- 327, or 16 per cent., 65 years and over.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

Of the 1,851 deaths which were registered within the Rhondda Urban District during the year, 1,719 were certified by registered medical practitioners, the District Coroner held inquests on 119, and the remaining 13 were uncertified by either coroner or medical attendant.

The respective proportions of the certified deaths, inquest cases, and uncertified deaths were 92.87, 6.43, and .70 per cent.

In the case of the thirteen uncertified deaths, the causes of death assigned were as follow :—

Premature Birth	8
Atelectasis	2

Convulsions	...	...	...	1
Debility	...	...	...	1
Inanition	...	...	...	1

STILL-BORN CHILDREN.

I am indebted to Mr. William Powell, the Clerk to the Burial Board, for a record of the number of still-born children brought to the three cemeteries for burial during the years 1898-1917.

Year.	No of Still-born Children recorded.		No of Births Registered.		Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average for 10 year periods.
1898	...	210	...	4,120	...	50.9
1899	...	271	...	4,089	...	66.3
1900	...	312	...	4,469	...	69.6
1901	...	348	...	4,586	...	75.9
1902	...	333	...	4,937	...	67.5
1903	...	333	...	4,897	...	68.0
1904	...	301	...	4,860	...	61.9
1905	...	367	...	4,664	...	78.7
1906	...	323	...	4,751	...	67.9
1907	...	346	...	4,831	...	71.6
1908	...	354	...	5,454	...	64.9
1909	...	337	...	5,577	...	60.4
1910	...	321	...	5,628	...	57.0
1911	...	292	...	5,491	...	53.2
1912	...	268	...	5,236	...	51.2
1913	...	330	...	5,505	...	59.9
1914	...	355	...	5,558	...	62.1
1915	...	257	...	4,983	...	51.6
1916	...	230	...	4,481	...	51.3
1917		236		4,145		56.9

67.8

56.9

For purposes of comparison I also append a table giving the corresponding figures for premature births:—

Year	Deaths from Premature Birth.	No. of Births Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average for 10 year periods.
1898	53	4,120	12.8	14.1
1899	56	4,089	13.6	
1900	66	4,469	14.7	
1901	74	4,586	16.1	
1902	53	4,937	10.7	
1903	84	4,897	17.1	
1904	69	4,860	14.1	
1905	62	4,664	13.3	
1906	69	4,751	14.5	16.0
1907	68	4,831	14.1	
1908	88	5,454	16.1	
1909	93	5,577	16.7	
1910	85	5,628	15.1	
1911	85	5,491	15.5	
1912	87	5,236	16.6	
1913	84	5,505	15.3	
1914	99	5,558	17.8	
1915	65	4,983	13.0	
1916	75	4,481	16.7	
1917	72	4,145	17.4	

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Average for Ten Years.

Rhondda per 1,000 Births	...	103	140
96 Great Towns	...	104	—
England and Wales	...	97	—

Infantile mortality is the ratio of the annual number of deaths of children under one year of age to every thousand births during the same year. The number of deaths of children under one in the Rhondda in 1917 amounted to 425 and the number of births to 4,145, so that the resulting infantile mortality for the year was 103, and forms the lowest rate to be found in the vital

statistics of the district. The reduction from 105 in 1916 to 103 in 1917 is a continuation of that which has been observed during the last few years. In contrast with this progress the infantile mortality rates for the 96 Great Towns and for England and Wales as a whole rose in the year under review, the former from 99 to 104 and the latter from 91 to 97.

While the direction of the movement of the infantile mortality rate in the district is a matter for satisfaction, its extent is not to be accepted as justifying any relaxation in the efforts of the Council in the interests of the preservation of infant life, for although the rate for 1917 is considerably less than half that pertaining to 1901 with its rate of 222, the possibilities of effecting a further and still considerable reduction are admitted and their approximate realization should be the earnest aim of those most immediately concerned with and responsible for the direction and extent of the efforts to be made to this end. Moreover, although the decrease in the infantile mortality in the district has been a progressive one since 1913, the process has been considerably assisted by the unusually favourable meteorological conditions which have obtained in subsequent years, and the intervention of one year or a series of years presenting more adverse circumstances will doubtless serve to break the continuity of the progress referred to.

In the accompanying table, which has been compiled from data obtained by the health visitors in the course of their systematic inquiries respecting each case dealt with, some of the circumstances associated with still-births and the deaths of those born alive emerge as apparently having a causal relationship with the fatalities.

The number of still-born children in 1917 amounted to 204 and, while it is not possible to indicate what proportion of these still-births is preventible, it may be stated with confidence that by the adoption of appropriate

Table giving in detail the information obtained by the Health Visitors concerning deaths of 383 children under one and of 204 children born dead.

		Deaths of children under one.		Still-Births.	
		Total Number.	Per Cent of Total Cases.	Total Number.	Per Cent of Total Cases.
Sex	Male ..	225	59	119	58
	Female ..	158	41	85	42
Ages at Death.	0 to 12 hours	33	9		
	12 to 24 "	18	5		
	1 to 7 days	61	16		
	1 to 4 weeks	44	12		
	1 to 2 months	41	11		
	2 to 3 "	26	7		
	3 to 4 "	16	4		
	4 to 5 "	16	4		
	5 to 6 "	18	5		
	6 to 7 "	17	4		
	7 to 8 "	23	6		
	8 to 9 "	17	4		
Maturity	9 to 10 "	12	3		
	10 to 11 "	17	4		
	11 to 12 "	24	6		
	Mature ..	287	75	100	49
	Premature ..	96	25	104	51
	Insured ..	103	27		
	Not well from birth ..	132	34		
Previously visited by Health Visitor		227	59		
	Separated from mother ..	5	1		
	Breast-fed ..	162	42		
	Partly breast-fed ..	17	4		
	Bottle-fed ..	90	24		
	Spoon fed ..	50	13		
	Unfed ..	64	17		
Bottle used.	Boat-shaped ..	94	25		
	Tube ..	12	3		
	Boat-shaped and tube ..	1			
Milk	Cows ..	61	16		
	Condensed ..	55	14		
	Patent Foods ..	41	11		
Abnormal number of flies in house					
	Insanitary condition of house ..	2	1		
	Overcrowding ..	14	4		
Previous deaths					
	1 child under one year of age	37	10	20	10
	2 children " "	21	5	11	5
	3 children " "	13	3	9	4
	4 or more children " "	15	4	8	4
Total number with previous deaths of Infants under one		86	22	48	24
Number with 1 previous still-birth		19	5	20	10
" " 2 " still-births		7	2	15	7
" " 3 " "		2	1	7	3
" " 4 or more " "		2	1	9	4
Total number with previous still births		30	8	51	25
Abnormal condition of mother		116	30	114	56
Difficult birth		68	18	99	49
Illegitimate ..		12	3		

measures the conditions or circumstances which led to the death of the children before birth would have been, in many instances, prevented or removed, or their influence mitigated to such an extent as to enable the children to survive. Opportunities are now being given to the expectant mothers of the district to obtain at the Council's Welfare Centre such medical advice as may not infrequently lead to these desirable steps being taken. It is believed that the expected delegation by the Glamorgan County Council to the Rhondda District Council of certain powers under the Midwives' Act, 1902, will serve, in consequence of the closer association with the midwives which such a delegation will effect, to enable us, to a greater extent than hitherto, to offer such advice to expectant mothers who may need it with a view to the prevention of conditions inimical to the survival of their children.

In the case also of many of the children born alive, especially of the 174 who died within 4 weeks of birth, the pre-natal conditions doubtless exercised an unfavourable influence of a determining character.

Out of 383 fatalities concerning which inquiries were made, 51, or 14 per cent., occurred within 24 hours of birth, and 112, or 30 per cent., within the first week; 96, or 25 per cent., were prematurely born; 162, or 42 per cent., were breast-fed, and 64, or 17 per cent., were stated to have been unable to take nourishment at all. It is significant that in 116 instances, or 30 per cent., the mother was not in a normal state of health before the baby's birth, and that in 68 cases, or 18 per cent., the labour was reported as having been unusually difficult.

In the annexed table are shown the proportions of those fed on the breast and by various artificial methods, as well as the incidence of deaths in the various groups given. While 3,158, or 83 per cent. of the total number

Some Statistics relating to Diets and Modes of Feeding.

	Total number in respect of whom records are available (4223).	Percent-ages of the total.	No of deaths in each group.	Percent-ages of deaths to number in each group.	Percent-ages of deaths in each group to fatalities investigated (383).
Breast-fed	3,518	83	162	4.6	42.0
Partly-breast-fed	166	4	17	10.2	4.0
Entirely Bottle-fed	425	10	90	21.2	24.0
Spoon-fed	50	1	50	100	13.0
Unfed	64	2	64	100	17.0
Bottle { Boat shaped	460	11	94	20.4	25.0
Used { Tube	126	3	12	9.5	3.0
{ Boot-shaped and Tube	5	1	1	20.0	0.3
Varieties { Cows Milk	146	3	61	41.8	16.0
of { Condensed Milk	320	8	55	17.2	14.0
Milk { Other Foods (Glaxo,					
Used { Cow and Gate, etc.)	175	4	41	23.4	11.0

of babies (4,223) of which records are available, were exclusively breast-fed during the early portion of their existence, only 425, or 10 per cent., were bottle-fed. The fatality rates in these two categories were 4.6 and 21.2 per cent. respectively; in other words, the chances of survival possessed by a breast-fed baby were over four times more favourable than in the case of the bottle-fed.

The proportion of artificially-fed to breast-fed babies is still much too high, the number of mothers in this district who are unable, through unavoidable absence from home or through some non-preventible or irremovable disability, to confer the great advantage of breast feeding on their babies, being relatively very small.

The extension of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme outlined in the annual report for 1916 was brought about in the course of the year now under review, so that during a portion of the year the services, to the extent to which they are available for the purpose, of Dr.

Helena G. Jones and eleven health visitors were devoted to the carrying out of the scheme. By arrangement with the Education Committee a portion of the School Clinic at Trafalgar Street, Ystrad, was utilized for the purposes of the scheme and the facilities provided enabled mothers to obtain advice for themselves and babies on three days a week.

The area from which mothers and babies were drawn has been gradually extended but, owing to the large size and physical configuration of the district, it will be difficult if not impracticable for those living in the more distant portions to take full and systematic advantage of the clinic already established at Ystrad. At the time of writing therefore inquiries are being made with a view to the acquisition of suitable premises in the lesser valley so as to render the advantages of a clinic more accessible to those living in this portion of the area.

Towards the end of the year also an offer was received and accepted by the Council from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees to build and equip a Model Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the Rhondda, on a site to be provided by the Council. In compliance with the conditions laid down by the Trustees, the Council are now negotiating for a site, and a scheme is being prepared for their consideration before its submission to the Trust for approval.

Since its opening on May 16th, 1918, the Welfare Centre at Ystrad has been freely though variably attended, the total number of children seen before the end of the year amounting to 530, of whom 398 were under one and 132 between one and five years of age. The total number of re-visits amounted to 432 and 113 in the two categories respectively. The number of re-visits paid therefore averaged approximately one per child, the variations in individual instances being very considerable, the highest number paid by any one case being 24.

A more or less reliable conclusion may be drawn as to the effect of the visits upon the mortality of those brought to the Centre for advice and guidance. As the age of those thus taken to the clinic is usually over one month, and as the mortality among infants below that age is very high, a comparison made between those who did and those who did not attend the clinic will be less fallacious if those who died before attaining that age be eliminated for the purposes of calculation from both the births and the deaths. Again it is probably true to say that the mothers whose anxieties in the interests of their babies lead them to seek the advice obtainable at the clinic belong to the more intelligent and better-circumstanced sections of the community and probably would, in the absence of the Clinic, secure better results than the community as a whole. It is on the other hand at least equally true to say that such new means of protecting infant life as the Centre is designed to afford are more generally resorted to on behalf of ailing, immature, or backward babies among whom the mortality is higher than among the normal infantile population. Subject to these double-edged reservations, it is encouraging to be in a position to report that the mortality among the babies brought to the clinic, however seldom, was only 37 per 1,000, whereas amongst the remainder over one month and under twelve months the mortality was 68 per 1,000. In arriving at these figures allowance has been made for the fact that the influence of the Centre was exercised for only $7\frac{1}{2}$ months in the year. There were no deaths among the 132 children over one year of age who attended the clinic.

The cases brought to the Welfare Centre were also, in common with the vast majority of those born in the district, periodically visited at their homes by the health visitors, who thus paid over 25,000 visits in the course of the year. The attendances at the Centre were almost entirely due, in the first instance, to the advice of the health visitors who also attend at the Centre on the days

on which mothers and babies from the respective districts pay their visits. They are thus given the opportunity to hear the advice given respecting individual children, whose homes they afterwards visit for the purpose of giving every encouragement to the mothers to carry out the instructions received.

The amount of ante-natal work done has hitherto been small, only 15 expectant mothers having attended the Centre for advice and guidance during the year. It is hoped however that a modification in the arrangements which is now contemplated and that the closer association with the midwives of the district which the pending delegation of supervisory powers by the County Council to the Rhondda District Council will lead to more advantage being taken of the facilities that are afforded in the interests of mothers as well as children, born and unborn.

The following table shows the extent to which the Notification of Births Act, 1907, has been observed since its adoption in 1909:—

		Births registered with District Registrars.	Births notified to Medical Officer of Health.	Percentage proportion of latter to former.
Portion of District served by Health Visitors	1909($\frac{1}{2}$)	1,550	1,546	100
	1910	3,079	3,023	98
	1911	3,059	3,144	103
Portion of District not served by Health Visitors.	1909($\frac{1}{2}$)	1,237	1,050	85
	1910	2,549	1,236	48
	1911	2,404	1,670	69
Whole of Rhondda	1909($\frac{1}{2}$)	2,787	2,596	93
	1910	5,628	4,259	76
	1911	5,463	4,814	88
	1912	5,202	4,898	94
	1913	5,479	5,522	101
	1914	5,541	5,444	98
	1915	4,960	4,995	101
	1916	4,481	4,695	105
	1917	4,145	4,361	105

- NOTES.—(1) In 1912 Health Visitors were appointed to serve the whole of the Urban District.
- (2) The excess of the number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health over the number registered in some years is due to the inclusion of still-births in the former, and to discrepancies arising in consequence of the different intervals after births allowed for notification and registration respectively.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Average for
Ten Years.

1917. 1907-1916.

Total number of Deaths in Rhondda			
from Zymotic Diseases	...	129	312
Zymotic Death-rate for Rhondda	...	.8	2.1

The diseases known as small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, typhoid and other continued fevers, and diarrhœa are together termed the “zymotic diseases,” and the deaths resulting from them in the course of a year serve, in relation to the population, as the basis for the “zymotic death-rate” for that year.

The year under review presents an exceptionally favourable record in this respect, for the actual total of 129 deaths thus caused throughout the year, and the resulting zymotic death-rate of .8 per 1,000 of the population are the lowest recorded in the history of the district.

The decrease in the number of deaths from these diseases was most marked in the case of diarrhœa

Wards 2, 6, 3, and 1, with zymotic death-rates of .24, .49, .52, and .57 respectively, possessed the lowest rates in the district; whereas to Wards 10, 8, and 9, with the

respective rates of 1.20, 1.20, and 1.11, belonged the highest rates for the year.

SMALL-POX.

No case of small-pox occurred in the district during the year.

MEASLES.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	2,337 —
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	52 75
Death-rate per 1,000	Rhondda	...	.34	.50
„	„	96 Great Towns	.41	
„	„	England & Wales	.30	.30

This disease became notifiable for the first time on January 1st, 1916. The Measles and German Measles Order, dated November 27th, 1915, and issued by the Local Government Board, limited compulsory notification to the first case in each household, any instance occurring after two months' freedom from the disease of a particular household being considered as a first case.

There were received during the year 2,337 notifications of measles falling within this category, and there resulted 52 deaths, equivalent to a death-rate of .34 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a death-rate of .41 in the 96 Great Towns and of .30 in England and Wales as a whole. It will be seen that the fatality rate,—the number of deaths per 100 cases,—was low, for it was only 2.23 even when the notified cases are alone taken into consideration, whereas in reality a large number of secondary cases arose in the infected households. Although the total number of 52 deaths is con-

siderable, it is only two-thirds of the annual average for the ten previous years, while the death-rate is intermediate between that for England and Wales on the one hand and that for the 96 Great Towns on the other. Ten of the fatalities occurred among children under one, 25 in children under two, and 16 at ages between two and five, whereas only one death was recorded among those over 5 years of age.

During the last quarter of the year, and to a very limited extent, the health visitors in Wards 1, 2, 5, 6, and 10 were able to give a certain amount of attention to cases of Measles and German Measles. This included the visiting of the infected houses, the observation of contacts, and the exclusion from school of certain categories of unprotected children. The scheme for controlling measles is being gradually developed, but the statistics available at present are not sufficient to justify any conclusions as to the measure of success with which its partial application has met.

The Ward distribution of the disease and the number of deaths were naturally closely related; thus, Wards 5, 8, 9, and 10, with 456, 304, 471, and 516 cases respectively, contributed 8, 10, 14, and 7 deaths. In Wards 2 and 4, with 45 and 19 cases, no deaths occurred.

GERMAN MEASLES.

Number of cases	241
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This disease was made compulsorily notifiable from January 1st, 1916, by the Order which added ordinary Measles to this category of infectious diseases. In the course of 1917, the number of notifications received amounted to 241, but in no instance was consequent death

reported. It is a much milder form of disease than ordinary Measles but it is, not infrequently, difficult to distinguish the one from the other, hence doubtless one of the reasons for its inclusion in the Order. If preventive measures be applied to both diseases equally, fewer cases of the more dangerous disease will escape proper attention.

It is worthy of note that the prevalence of German measles bore some relation to that of measles; thus, while Wards 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 contributed more than six times as many cases of measles as the remaining five wards, there was an excess of German measles also in the first group of wards, although the difference was less pronounced.

SCARLET FEVER.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	184 739
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	5 15
Death-rate per 1,000 Rhondda	...	...	.03	.09
„ „ 96 Great Towns			.03	
„ „ England & Wales			.02	.06

The number of cases notified,—184,—and the number of deaths—5,—are the lowest recorded totals for the district since the disease became notifiable in 1894.

The resulting death-rate of .03 per 1,000 is equal to that of the 96 Great Towns and only .01 in excess of the rate for England and Wales, while it is only one-third the district average for the last ten years.

The decrease in the number of cases, which has been especially noticeable since 1910, is made manifest when the number of cases for the year under review,—184,—is compared with the average for the ten previous years, viz.:—739. The fatality rate of 2.7 per cent. closely approximates the normal.

DIPHTHERIA.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	108 185
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	23 28
Death-rate per 1,000 Rhondda	...	...	...	.15 .18
„ „ 96 Great Towns.	...	...	...	.13
„ „ England & Wales	...	...	...	.13 .14

A total number of 108 cases was notified during 1917 and, with the single exception of that for 1910, forms the lowest annual aggregate recorded since 1896.

The number of deaths was exceptionally high in proportion to the number of cases, whereas in relation to the population it was well below the district average. The resulting fatality and mortality rates were 21.3 per cent. of the cases notified and .15 per 1,000 of the living population respectively.

The latter rate is slightly higher than the .13 pertaining to the rest of the country but is lower than the Rhondda average for the last ten years.

TYPHOID FEVER.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	50 73
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	6 13
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...	...	...	.04 .08
„ „ 96 Great Towns	...	...	...	.02
„ „ England & Wales	...	...	...	.03 .05

The number of cases, the deaths, and the mortality-rate per 1,000 were 50, 6, and .04 respectively.

While these figures are slightly in excess of those pertaining to 1916, the reduction noticeable in the

incidence of and the mortality from this disease during recent years has been maintained. Thus for the five years ended in 1917 the annual average number of cases amounted to 40 and the deaths to 8, as compared with the 88 and 14 respectively for the immediately preceding five years (1908-1912).

TYPHUS FEVER.

In March a notification of a case of typhus fever in a child two years old was received from Treherbert. Investigations immediately made did not provide an opportunity to examine the child until 36 hours after death. The onset of the illness was sudden and its progress rapid, so that the medical attendant saw the child only a few hours before death. The history of the illness and the symptoms described were consistent with those of a severe attack of measles in a feebly-resisting subject. The child was puny and anæmic, had not had measles previously, and was brought to Treherbert from a part of the district in which measles was then prevalent. Disinfection of bedding and premises was carried out and the contacts kept under observation, but no subsequent illness simulating typhus fever came under observation.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified in the course of the year, the specific organism being found in the cerebro-spinal fluid of each. One occurred in Ward 7, and the other two in Ward 9.

All three cases ended fatally, but there was no extension of the disease to others, and no association between these cases and other illnesses of a like nature was discovered.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Although acute poliomyelitis has been notifiable since September 1st, 1912, in virtue of the provisions of the Public Health (Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis) Regulations, 1912, very few cases have as yet been notified. Having regard to the very serious outbreaks of this disease which have occurred in some districts,—e.g., the outbreak of 8,928 cases with 2,407 deaths in New York in 1916,—our freedom from such occurrences in the past may at any moment come to an end. It is therefore incumbent upon every medical practitioner to promptly notify every case, however mild, in compliance with the above Regulations, so that such measures as we are in a position to employ may be applied with a view to the prevention of the spread of the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	26 37
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...		.17	.24
„ „ 96 Great Towns			.15	
„ „ England & Wales			.13	.22

In the course of the year 1917, there were 26 deaths from whooping cough, as compared with an annual average of 37 for the ten previous years. The resulting death-rate of .17 per 1,000 exceeds the corresponding rates for the 96 Great Towns and England and Wales by .02 and .04 respectively although it is .07 below the district average rate for the immediately preceding decennium.

DIARRHŒA.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	16 145
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...	...	...	.10 .97

The number of deaths from diarrhœa during 1917 was 16, and was the lowest total recorded since 1878, when only 11 deaths from this disease occurred.

The progressive diminution in the number of deaths which was observed in 1915 and 1916,—with 58 and 55 deaths respectively,—has been more than maintained, the total for the year now being considered being only one-ninth of the annual average for the ten previous years.

The death-rate of .10 per 1,000 is the lowest ever recorded for the district, the next lowest being the rate of .23 belonging to 1878.

While the meteorological conditions during the year were not favourable to the undue prevalence of diarrhœal and intestinal diseases, there is ground for believing that a considerable portion of the reduction of the number of deaths is ascribable to the activity of the health visitors and others engaged in advising mothers as to the proper feeding of infants and the methods of preventing diarrhœa.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

				Average for Ten Years.
				1917. 1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	10 18
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	7 9
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...	...	...	.05 .06

The number of notifications of puerperal fever received in 1917 was 10, so that the year shared with

1916 the distinction of possessing the lowest total of cases of this disease since it became notifiable in 1894.

There were however 7 deaths, equivalent to a case-mortality of 70 per cent. and a death-rate of .05 per 1,000, the latter rate comparing favourably with the average of .06 for the ten previous years.

While the Midwives Act, 1902, is still being administered in the Rhondda by the Glamorgan County Council as the Supervising Authority under the Act, the delegation of some of their powers therunder to the Rhondda Council is under consideration at the time of writing.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Since February 1st, 1913, the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, have been in operation and provide for the compulsory notification of all forms of tuberculosis as soon as recognized by the medical practitioners in attendance. Prior to that date only the pulmonary form of the disease was compulsorily notifiable.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. Average for Ten Years.

				1917.	1907-1916.
Number of Cases	...	...	...	219	
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	153	113
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...			1.0	.74

The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis received during the year amounted to 219, as compared with 352, 302, 290, 235, and 191 respectively in the five immediately preceding years. While this figure is in excess of that for 1916, there has been, with this exception, a progressive diminution in the annual number of cases since 1912 when the

disease first became notifiable. No corresponding decrease in the number of deaths has taken place during the same period; on the contrary, the total of 153 deaths in 1917 is the highest ever recorded in the Rhondda and the resulting death-rate of 1.00 per 1,000 is the highest for 21 years (since 1897). The relative excess of notifications during the first year after the introduction of compulsory notification was to be expected owing to the accumulation of notifiable cases which would, had the Regulations been previously in operation, been notified in earlier years.

The reduction in the notifications,—or in the occurrence of cases,—combined with the actual increase in the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, suggests the obvious explanation that, while the factors tending to the prevention of the disease are becoming more active and effective, the methods of dealing with the cases after their recognition are, either in principle or in their application, inferior to those previously employed. Another explanation is to suppose that the infection is more virulent in type; or again that it has attacked more vulnerable subjects, and the conditions produced by the war may be considered as rendering the latter proposition as not improbable. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that since 1914 there has been a general though slight increase in the annual number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis throughout England and Wales. The higher death-rate recorded is due to this fact in conjunction with the result of the withdrawal of large numbers of selected non-tuberculous persons for service in the army or navy, the death-rate being calculated on the civil population.

The shortness of the interval of time between the date of notification and the day of death in fatal cases implies that there is still much delay in recognizing and notifying cases of the disease, it being known that the

duration of individual instances of tuberculosis, even when fatal, usually extends into years. Thus of the total number of deaths which occurred during 1917, no fewer than 76 were notified during that year, notifications of the remaining 78 being distributed over previous years subsequent to 1911. In other words, in practically one half of the fatal cases their post-notification existence did not exceed 12 months.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of Cases	...	...	...	...	...	107
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	53
Death-rate per 1,000, Rhondda	...	....	...	...	...	.34

During the year there were notified 107 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of deaths amounted to 53 and occasioned a death-rate of .34 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 89, 39, and .25 respectively. No fewer than 38, or 72 per cent., of the fatalities in 1917 were notified in the course of that year, and the observation made in the section on the pulmonary form of the disease concerning the apparent delay in notifying is equally applicable in this instance.

It is recorded that there has been a similar increase in the number of deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis throughout England and Wales as a whole since 1914.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	1917.	1916.	1915.
Number of Cases	74	59	44
Rate per 1,000 births	17.9	13.1	8.8

The General Order making Ophthalmia Neonatorum compulsorily notifiable came into force on April 1st,

1914, and defines the condition as “ a purulent discharge from the eyes of an infant, commencing within 21 days of the date of its birth.”

During the year under review, 74 cases of this disease were notified, 25 by medical practitioners, 43 by midwives, and 6 by both. There was thus an increase of 15 as compared with the total for the previous year, the rate per 1,000 births also rising from 13.1 for 1916 to 17.9 in 1917. This increase is contrary to the experience of England and Wales, the number for 1917 being less than in either 1915 or 1916 throughout the country as a whole. It is noteworthy also that the Rhondda contributed 59 per cent. of the total of 126 for the Administrative County of Glamorgan during the year.

There was evidence of damage,—obvious to the health visitors,—of a permanent character in 4 cases, both cornea presenting opacities in one instance, and the left cornea in each of the other three. The proportion of the cases thus showing permanent injurious results amounted to 5.4 per cent. as compared with 1.7 per cent. in the previous year.

In 20 of the cases,—including the damaged four,—a definite history of symptoms pointing to the existence of gonorrhœa in the mother was obtained.

In 48 instances active assistance was rendered by the health visitors for the purpose of securing due compliance with the doctor's instructions. In one instance 770 visits were paid, the treatment extending over 254 days, but the average number paid to each case was 26, one visit proving sufficient in one or two instances. In 53 cases both eyes were affected.

As might be expected, considerable variation existed among the midwives in their interpretation of the

definition of the disease. Thus while 11 cases occurred in the practice of one midwife, none of them lasted more than 15 days and the average duration for the eleven cases was only 5 days.

The average number of days between the birth and the onset of the disease was 4.7, the extremes ranging from 1 to 12 days.

The average period that elapsed between the onset of the disease and the receipt of the notification was 2.8 days, the limits being 1 and 15 days.

In 57 instances the midwife only was present at birth, in one case the doctor only, in 11 both were present, while in six cases neither was present at the actual birth.

The average duration of the disease was 30 days, a few cases lasting only a few days, whereas in one instance the recovery was not complete until after 254 days.

In France it is the practice to instil a drop or two of a preventive solution into the eyes of each baby as soon as possible after its birth, and it is believed that the general introduction of the practice into this country would serve to obviate the occurrence of many of the cases which now end in the destruction or in the more or less serious impairment of the eyesight.

CONTAGIOUS OPHTHALMIA.

Between November, 1916, and August, 1917, a total number of 121 cases of ophthalmia in Wattstown came under the observation of the Health Department. It was first reported as occurring in some of the children attending Wattstown School, all the classes and departments of which were involved. The number of children

of school age affected amounted to 93, the remaining 28 being distributed amongst the general population, adults as well as young children being among the attacked, the health visitor who carried out most of the investigations being also one of the victims. The cases were limited to 28 houses, of which 24 were in the same street. In spite of much attention on the part of the doctors concerned and of the health visitor, the course of the disease was often protracted, one of the cases having withstood three months of treatment before complete recovery took place, but the duration was in general approximately a fortnight.

The main symptoms consisted of grittiness and redness of the eyelids, which were followed in a few hours by considerable swelling and severe pain, often sufficient to prevent sleep, and always accompanied or followed by the formation of much pus. These severe symptoms subsided in about 3 days, the discharge became thinner and the swelling much less until the normal condition was attained in about a fortnight. A recurrence was noticed in several instances. Microscopical examination of the discharge disclosed the presence of streptococci and staphylococci but no gonococci.

Notwithstanding the preponderance of school children among the attacked, repeated investigations rather suggested that the infection was conveyed at the homes rather than at the school.

In many instances permanent damage in the form of ulceration and resulting leucomata was caused.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The duty of providing facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases (syphilis, gonorrhœa, and soft chancre) is imposed upon the councils of counties and

county boroughs by the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916. The Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, and Orders made thereunder from time to time by the Local Government Board, provide for the prevention of the treatment of these diseases otherwise than by duly qualified medical practitioners.

In virtue of these powers the Glamorgan County Council have formulated a scheme which provides clinics at The King Edward VII. Hospital, Cardiff, at which men are treated on Mondays from 6.0 to 8.0 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9.0 to 11.0 a.m. and from 6.0 to 8.0 p.m., while women are dealt with on Tuesdays at 6.0 to 8.0 p.m. No charge is made for treatment and the third class return railway fares of patients attending the clinic at Cardiff are re-payable by the County Council. The scheme also provides for:—

(1) the examination of material sent by medical practitioners for the purpose of diagnosis;

(2) the instruction of medical practitioners in the administration of the newer forms of treatment employed; and

(3) the gratuitous supply to medical practitioners of certain drugs required for the treatment of their patients suffering from venereal disease on the production of evidence of the possession by them of certain qualifications specified by the Local Government Board.

There is reason to believe that advantage is already being taken to a considerable extent by sufferers in the Rhondda of the facilities provided by the Glamorgan County Council.

INFLUENZA.

					1917.
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	28
Death-rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	.18

During the year 28 deaths were ascribed to influenza, equivalent to a death-rate of .18 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths and the death-rate in each of the five previous years are as follows:—

		Deaths.		Death-rate.	
1912	...	14	...	.09 per 1,000.	
1913	...	18	...	.13	„
1914	...	18	...	.11	„
1915	...	26	...	.17	„
1916	...	25	...	.16	„

COLLIERY FATALITIES.

					1917.
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	49
Death-rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	.32

The number of deaths due to colliery accidents during 1917 amounted to 49, equal to a death-rate of .32 per 1,000 of the population. This is the lowest absolute number since 1908, when 48 deaths were ascribed to accidents in collieries, although the resulting death-rate for that year exceeded that of the year under review by .02.

INQUESTS.

Total in 1917	...	...	...	...	119
Rate per cent. of Deaths	...	...	...	...	6.43

The total number of inquests held amounted to .119 during the year. Of the 1,851 deaths registered in the district, 92.87 per cent. were certified by medical practitioners, 6.43 per cent. by coroners, and .70 per cent. were uncertified.

THE TYNTYLA ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There was no change in the course of the year in the accommodation available at the hospital, the arrangements permitting the reception and treatment at the same time of three infectious diseases in the following proportions:—

	Ordinary Beds.		Observation Beds.
Diphtheria	20	...	2
Typhoid Fever	20	...	2
Scarlet Fever	34	...	2
	—		—
	74		6

There is also accommodation for eight or ten patients in the small building formerly constituting the isolation hospital for the whole area.

The total number of patients admitted into the hospital in the course of the year 1917 amounted to 215, whereas the numbers for the seven immediately preceding years were 324, 231, 385, 441, 344, 398, and 314 respectively.

The following table furnishes a summary of the number of cases treated, the number of deaths from each disease, and the fatality which resulted from each of the diseases treated during 1917.

			No. of Cases.		No. of Deaths.		Mortality per cent.
Diphtheria	...	...	62	...	10	...	16.1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	48	...	4	...	8.3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	105	...	5	...	4.7
Totals	...	...	215		19		8.8

Below a table is given to show the mortality rate of hospital-treated cases as compared with that of patients treated at their own homes, and also the case-mortality for the whole area, both groups of cases included.

	Whole District.			Hospital Cases.			Rest of Dist. (Hospital excluded.)		
	Cases	Deaths	Mortality per cent.	Cases	Deaths	Mortality per cent.	Cases	Deaths	Mortality per cent.
DIPHTHERIA (including membranous croup) ...	108	23	21.3	62	10	16.1	46	13	28.2
TYPHOID FEVER (includ- ing continued fever) ..	50	6	12.0	48	4	8.3	2	2	100.0
SCARLET FEVER ...	184	5	2.7	105	5	4.7	79	0	0.0
	342	34	9.9	215	19	8.8	127	15	11.8

Each district ward, to the extent given in the subjoined table, contributed to make up the total number of patients admitted to the hospital.

RECOVERED CASES.				FATAL CASES.		
Ward.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.
1	0	5	6	0	0	0
2	8	7	8	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	3	4	4	0	4	1
5	4	9	15	2	0	0
6	2	7	2	1	0	0
7	9	1	20	1	0	0
8	12	9	16	2	0	1
9	13	2	22	4	0	1
10	1	0	7	0	0	2
TOTALS.	52	44	100	10	4	5

The average time spent in hospital by recovered cases was 36 days in the case of diphtheria (with extremes varying from 19 to 109 days), 41 days in the case of typhoid fever (between the limits of 25 and 109 days), and 46 days in the case of scarlet fever (with extremes of 14 and 199 days). For the cases which terminated fatally, the average time in hospital was 12 days in diphtheria (from 12 hours to 30 days), 16 days in typhoid, and 7 days in scarlet fever.

As in the case of the previous year, it proved impracticable for the tradesmen of the district to enter into contracts for the supply of the provisions required for the patients and staff at the hospital. The only exceptions were bread and milk, and it was consequently necessary to obtain the remaining foodstuffs and other requisites by purchase in the open market at current retail prices.

The maintenance rate per patient per week amounted in 1917 to £2 13s. 9.8d. This is an increase of 91 per cent. upon that for the previous year, although the absolute difference in the totals for the two years was only £147. The circumstances accountable for the great difference in the rates were the additional cost of provisions and other requisites and the much smaller number of patients it was necessary to remove into the hospital owing to the lessened prevalence of the diseases which are admitted for isolation and treatment.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN 1917.

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	...	£1,093	15	7
Health Insurance Contributions	...	...	...	...	18	2	3
Bread	...	...	...	...	134	13	2
Eggs	...	...	...	...	16	6	1
Fish	...	...	...	...	29	10	8
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	69	16	0
Milk	...	...	...	...	315	19	8
Meat	...	...	...	...	352	4	1
Carried forward...					£2,030	7	6

						£	s.	d.
					Brought forward	2,030	7	6
Groceries	...	...	...	...	...	337	11	2
Stimulants (Brandy, &c.)	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	6
Drugs, Instruments, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	120	15	6
Drysaltery (Soap, Polishes, &c.)	...	...	...	...	...	63	0	11
Methylated Spirits, Turpentine, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	6	16	1
Gas	...	...	...	...	...	50	6	2
Electricity	...	...	...	...	...	96	13	5
Water	...	...	...	...	...	43	2	2
Gas, Water, and Electricity	...	...	...	...	...	8	18	3
Fuel	...	...	...	...	...	305	17	4
Horse Feed, Shoeing, Saddlery, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	66	13	10
Advertisements	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	6
Stationery, Printing, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	28	10	8
Postages, Fares, and Carriage	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	4
Telephone Charges (Maintenance, &c.)	...	...	...	...	...	13	10	0
Boiler Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	3	17	3
General District Rate	...	...	...	...	...	29	3	8
Poor Rate	...	...	...	...	...	47	5	0
Crockery, Drapery, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	23	6	6
Ironmongery	...	...	...	...	...	0	17	0
Brushes, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	11	0	10
Ambulance Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	8	19	3
Gardening Requisites and Labour	...	...	...	...	...	94	1	9
General Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	0	14	6
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	10	9	1
						<hr/> <hr/>		
						£3,425	13	2

It will be readily appreciated that under the circumstances arising from the exceptional conditions, the administrative difficulties experienced by Miss R. E. Smith, the Matron, were considerably increased, especially in connection with the purchase to the best advantage of provisions generally. The routine medical attendance upon the patients was faithfully carried out by Dr. H. G. Jones throughout the greater portion of the year.

PENRHYS ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

No change has been made during the year in the structure or accommodation of the small-pox hospital and, owing to the absence of this disease from the district, it was not found necessary to use the institution for the purpose for which it was built.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The difficulties arising from the transport and labour problems referred to in recent annual reports became aggravated in 1917, one of the results being the extension of the area in which the scavenging is done by direct labour. The prices required by the contractors in some of the sub-districts were considered so exorbitant that the Council undertook to carry out the work themselves in some instances, and during the year practically one-fourth of the district was thus scavenged.

In the course of the year, a considerable proportion of the refuse was disposed of at the destructor at Dinas, which forms part of the Council's Electricity Works, under the management of Mr. J. M. Bowman, Electrical Engineer to the Council, to whom I am indebted for some of the information contained in this section. During the year there were burnt at the destructor 15,573 tons, the rate of destruction amounting to an average of 300 tons per week or 50 tons per day. The remainder of the refuse, consisting of about 150 tons a day was disposed of by dumping in twelve situations which are scattered throughout the district and all of which are within short distances of a large number of dwelling-houses. If the haulage difficulty can be overcome, a large increase in the amount of refuse dealt with at the destructor is worthy of early consideration. The existing plant, without any

addition or material modification, is capable of destroying 80 tons a day, and its utilization to its full capacity at an early date is to be desired, in view of the salutary effect which the prevention of the formation of large masses of decomposing and offensive organic matter must have upon the well-being of the community now exposed to the evil influences of these tips.

According to information obtained from the department of Mr. E. H. Barber, Surveyor and Engineer to the Council, the total cost of the collection of house refuse and of its cartage to the various tips or to the destructor amounted during the year ended September 30th, 1917, to £15,483 10s. 6d., including the cost of dealing with districts 19, 20, 21, and 22, which are scavenged by the Council by direct labour. The total amount is equivalent to an expenditure of 11/2 per house, as compared with 8/-, 6/-, 5/6, 4/-, 4/4, 4/6, 6/10.7, 4/10, 5/2, 5/3.4, 4/9.4, 6/2.1, 7/0.4, 7/0.9, 8/-, 8/8.7 for the years 1902-3 to 1916-17 respectively.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No changes or improvements of importance in the drainage and sewerage systems of the district have been carried out during the year. The defective main sewer at Hafod and the want of a proper scheme to meet the requirements of 35 tenements at Appletree are still awaiting attention.

The number of houses within the Urban District still unconnected with the sewerage system amounts to 290, as compared with 295 at the end of the previous year (1916), 303 at the end of 1915, and 4,290 in 1897. The distribution of those still remaining unconnected is shown in the subjoined table:—

Sanitary District No. 1 contains 20 unconnected houses.

„	2	„	12	„
„	3	„	58	„
„	4	„	63	„
„	5	„	67	„
„	6	„	70	„

The extent and character of the means of excrement disposal throughout the Rhondda Urban District at the end of 1917 are set out in the appended table, which is a summary of the returns and reports furnished periodically by the sanitary inspectors.

No. of Privies with fixed receptacles (middens, cesspits)	78
No. of Privies with moveable receptacles (pails)...	46
No. of Water Closets (fresh water cistern-flushed)	24,385
No. of Water Closets (waste water)	—
No. of Water Closets (hand flushed)	3,490

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There has been a diminution of one in the number of common lodging-houses in the district during the year, that situated at the Old Talbot Arms, Gilfach Goch, having been discontinued. Certain alterations were carried out at the common lodging-house in Gelligaled Road, and whereas the description was formerly given as Nos. 1 and 2, it is now known as Nos. 2 and 3 in that road. There are 10 of these establishments in the district, one at Pentre, six at Ystrad, one at Penygraig, and two at Dinas, the total providing accommodation for 387 persons.

Frequent visits of inspection were paid to all the lodging-houses by Chief Inspector J. Towy Thomas, and by Inspectors D. W. Jones and D. B. Davies, in whose

districts all the lodging-houses are situated All the houses are licensed for a period of twelve months, in accordance with the provisions of the Rhondda Urban District Council Act, 1905.

There are no registered houses let in lodgings throughout the urban area.

REPORTS DURING THE YEAR.

In addition to the ordinary statistical matter, the following subjects were dealt with in the reports placed before the Council during the year:—

Accommodation at the Council Offices.

Closing Orders in operation for three or more months (3).

Collection of Waste suitable for pig-feeding.

Determination of Closing Order.

Fly, The

Food Control (7).

General Death-rate.

Houses unfit for human habitation (5).

Houses without a proper water supply.

Maintenance of Live Stock Order (2),

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Noise from No. 6 Pit, Trealaw (2).

Offensive Trade, Establishment of

Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Re-adjustment of Salaries of Health Visitors (2).

River Pollution (3).

Surface Water Drains, Responsibility for the maintenance of

Wages of Hospital Staff,

Wages of Tipmen,

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889; The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890; and the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III., were adopted by the Rhondda Council from January 1st, 1894, and the Notification of Births Act, 1907, from April 28th, 1909.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year, the following were condemned as unfit for the food of man, and their use for such purpose prevented:—

Beef	...	...	...	1,225 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	50 „
Bacon	...	...	...	289 „
Pluck	...	...	...	112 „
Herrings	...	...	...	2 tins
„	...	...	...	280 lbs.
Mackerel	...	...	...	2 cwt.
Ribs	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Crayfish	...	...	...	3 tins
Prawns	...	...	...	1 tin
Bristling	...	...	...	2 tins
Salmon	...	...	...	12 „
Lobster	...	...	...	2 „
Oysters	...	...	...	1 tin
Bloater Paste	...	...	...	1 „
Rabbit	...	...	...	1 „
Corned Beef	...	...	...	3 tins
Pressed Beef	...	...	...	12 „
Tongue	...	...	...	2 „
Tomatoes	...	...	...	40 „
„	...	...	...	360 lbs.
Raspberries	...	...	...	5 tins

Strawberries	2 tins
Blackberries	12 „
Damsons	2 „
Plums	6 „
Pineapple	27 „
Pears	22 „
Apricots	4 „
Peaches	2 „
Blackcurrant Jelly	1 jar
Jams	8 lbs.
Condensed Milk	62 tins
Eggs	360
„ (Liquid)	56 lbs.
Pickles	1 tin
Potatoes	1,001 lbs.
Swedes	16 tons 17 cwt.
Cheese	210 lbs.
Margarine	1½ „
Flour	840 „

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Summary of Police Court Proceedings during 1917.

No.	COURT.	OFFENCE.	RESULT.
1	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of a young person	Fined 15/-
2	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined £2
3	Ystrad	Failing to provide seat where female shop assistants were employed ...	Fined 10/-
4	Ystrad	do. do. ..	Fined 10/-
5	Ystrad	Failing to abate nuisances ..	Ordered to abate : penalty of 4/- per day if in default
6	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined £2
7	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re mixed business	Fined £2
8	Ystrad	Selling goods after closing time ...	Fined £2

Summary of Police Court Proceedings—continued.

No.	COURT.	OFFENCE.	RESULT.
9	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re mixed business ...	Fined 10/-
10	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined £2
11	Ystrad	Failing to provide seat where female shop assistants were employed ...	Fined 10/-
12	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ..	Fined 5/-
13	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 15/-
14	Ystrad	Employing a child after 9 p.m. ...	Payment of costs 5/-
15	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
16	Porth	Selling goods after closing time ...	Fined 5/-
17	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re mixed business ...	Fined 5/-
18	Ystrad	Employing a shop assistant on weekly half holiday ...	Fined 10/-
19	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 10/-
20	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 10/-
21	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 10/-
22	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ..	Fined 10/-
23	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of a young person	Fined 10/-
24	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday	Fined £1
25	Ystrad	Occupying a dwelling house previous to certification by Council	Fined £1
26	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined £1
27	Ystrad	Failing to abate nuisances ..	Abated. Payment of costs
28	Ystrad	Failing to abate nuisances (2houses)	Abated. Payment of costs
29	Porth	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined 10/-
30	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
31	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of young person ...	Fined 15/-
32	Ystrad	Depositing refuse on road ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
33	Ystrad	Depositing refuse on lane ...	Fined 10/-
34	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined 10/-
35	Porth	Failing to provide seats where female shop assistants were employed ...	Fined 10/-
36	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Fined 10/-
37	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of young person ...	Fined 10/-
38	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Fined 10/-
39	Porth	do. do. ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
40	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of young person ..	Payment of costs, 5/-

Summary of Police Court Proceedings—*continued.*

No.	Court.	Offence.	Result.
41	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
42	Porth	do. do. ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
43	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice as to hours of employment of young person ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
44	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined 10/-
45	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re mixed business ...	Fined 10/-
46	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
47	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 10/-
48	Porth	Failing to abate nuisances ...	Abated. Payment of costs
49	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Abated. Payment of costs
50	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Ordered to abate
51	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Ordered to abate
52	Ystrad	Wasting bread ...	Fined £1
53	Ystrad	Selling Quaker Oats above maximum price ...	Fined £2 5/-
54	Ystrad	Wasting bread ...	Fined £1
55	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined £1
56	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined £1
57	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re mixed business ...	Fined £3
58	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Fined 10/-
59	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 15/-
60	Porth	Selling loaves of bread not of an even number of pounds in weight ...	Fined £1
61	Porth	Selling peas above maximum price ...	Fined 10/-
62	Porth	Selling peas other than by weight ...	Fined 5/-
63	Ystrad	Selling peas above maximum price ...	Fined 10/-
64	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined 7/6
65	Ystrad	Exposing for sale bread which had not been made 12 hours ...	Dismissed
66	Ystrad	Selling peas above maximum price ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
67	Ystrad	Failing to keep accurate records ...	Dismissed
68	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Withdrawn on account of result in previous case
69	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time ...	Fined £2 10/-
70	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price ...	Fined 15/-
71	Porth	Selling plum jam above maximum price ...	Fined 10/-
72	Porth	Selling marmalade above maximum price ...	Dismissed
73	Porth	Selling damson jam above maximum price ...	Fined £1

Summary of Police Court Proceedings—*continued.*

No.	Court.	Offence.	Result.
74	Ystrad	Selling peas in packet not having the required particulars printed thereon	Fined £2 10/-
75	Ystrad	Selling meat above maximum price	Dismissed
76	Ystrad	Failing to keep accurate records ..	Dismissed
77	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price	Payment of costs, 5/-
78	Porth	Selling plum jam above maximum price	Payment of costs, 5/-
79	Ystrad	Selling peas in packet not having the required particulars printed thereon	Payment of costs, 5/-
80	Porth	Selling loaves of bread not of an even number of pounds in weight	Payment of costs, 10/-
81	Porth	Selling raspberry jam above maximum price	Payment of costs, 10/-
82	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price	Fined £1 10/-
83	Porth	Selling damson jam above maximum price	Fined 15/-
84	Porth	Selling jam wholesale above maximum price	Payment of costs, 5/-
85	Porth	Selling scone and cake to the exterior of which an edible substance had been added	Fined £2
86	Porth	do. do	Fined £1 and payment of costs, 5/-
87	Porth	Being in possession of cakes to which an edible substance had been added	Dismissed
88	Ystrad	Selling and being in possession of light and fancy pastry and other like articles	Fined £2
89	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price	Fined 30/-
90	Porth	Selling haricot beans above maximum price	Dismissed
91	Porth	Selling plum jam wholesale above maximum price	Fined £2
92	Ystrad	Selling plum jam above maximum price	Fined 10/-
93	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price	Fined 15/-
94	Porth	Selling blackberry and apple jam wholesale above maximum price ..	Fined £2
95	Porth	Selling potatoes above maximum price	Fined £2
96	Porth	Depositing refuse on road	To pay 2/6 towards costs
97	Porth	Selling Plasmon oats above maximum price	Fined £3

Summary of Police Court Proceedings—*continued.*

No.	COURT.	OFFENCE.	RESULT.
98	Porth	Selling potatoes otherwise than by weight ...	Dismissed
99	Porth	do. do. ...	Adjourned <i>sine die</i>
100	Porth	do. do. ...	do.
101	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above maximum price ...	Fined £1
102	Ystrad	Selling meat above maximum price	Fined £1 and costs 40/-
103	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Adjourned <i>sine die</i>
104	Ystrad	do. do. ...	do.
105	Ystrad	do. do. ...	do.
106	Ystrad	do. do. ...	do.
107	Ystrad	do. do. ...	do.
108	Ystrad	do. do. ...	do.
109	Ystrad	Selling loaves of bread not of an even number of pounds in weight	Fined £5 and costs 15/-
110	Porth	Selling self-raising flour above the maximum price ...	Fined £2
111	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday ...	Fined £2
112	Ystrad	do. do. ...	Fined £2
113	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice as to the hours of employment of a young person ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
114	Ystrad	Failing to provide a seat where female shop assistants were employed ...	Payment of costs, 5/-
115	Ystrad	Employing shop assistant on weekly half-holiday ...	Fined £5

An analysis of the foregoing statement of Police Court Proceedings during the year shows that 52 actions were instituted for offences under the Orders of the Ministry of Food, 49 for offences under the Shops Acts, 7 for failure to abate nuisances (involving 8 premises), 3 for depositing refuse in road or lane, 2 for occupation of houses before certification by the Council as fit for human habitation, and 2 for offences against the Employment of Children Act, 1903, and the Council's bye-laws thereunder.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of infected premises, clothing and bedding was carried out as in previous years,

WATER SUPPLY.

No change in the methods of collection, storage, purification, or distribution of the water derived from the more important sources took place during the year. The character of the water supplied by the Council, as revealed by periodical chemical and bacteriological examination, proved on the whole satisfactory, but no opportunities of analysing the waters distributed from the other supplies were afforded.

No serious insufficiency in the supply was experienced in the course of the year in either the Council's area or in that of the Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Water Board. As tending to assist in the prevention of inadequacy during the summer months may be mentioned the provision made by the Council to obtain water for street-watering purposes from other available sources such as mountain streams, especially in the portion of the district within the area of the Joint Water Board.

THE COUNCIL'S AREA OF SUPPLY. Comprised within the Council's authorized area of supply are 15,182 acres on which have been built 15,219 dwelling-houses that are still fit for occupation. The number of these houses supplied by the Council amounts to 13,412. The remaining 1,807, deriving their supplies from various private sources, are mainly situated at Fernhill, Caroline Street, Blaenrhondda, Cwmparc, Ystrad, Llwynypia, and Clydach Vale. All of these supplementary sources must be considered unsatisfactory on account of inadequate protection, insufficient storage, inefficient purification, or unreliable distribution. As regards sufficiency, one of the least satisfactorily supplied areas comprises Fernhill, Caroline Street, and Blaenrhondda, for the supply of which the Council have already decided to erect at Fernhill, as mentioned in the report for the previous year, some mechanical pressure filters which will be capable

of supplying 120,000 gallons a day and will be provided in duplicate. It has however been impossible to secure delivery, although the order therefor was placed in 1916.

The records kept by Mr. Octavius Thomas, the Council's Gas and Water Engineer, show that, in the course of the year, only 9 new services were laid and that the consumption per head of the population was 19.85 gallons a day, of which 0.93 gallon was supplied for trade purposes, all water provided by meter coming under this description.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE JOINT WATER BOARD. The Pontypridd and Rhondda Joint Water Board succeeded the Pontypridd Waterworks Company on January 1st, 1911, under the provisions of the Pontypridd and Rhondda Water Act, 1910, and is authorized to supply, within the Rhondda, the whole of the Rhondda Fach Valley, the lower end of Rhondda Fawr Valley, and the main valley from the junction of the other two at Porth to the line at Hafod at which the Rhondda district merges into the Pontypridd Urban District. The independent supplies within this area are neither numerous nor considerable, the largest being situated at Blaenllechau, Pontygwaith, Ynyshir, Hafod, Cymmer, Trebanog and Penrhiwfer. The unfavourable conditions as regards labour and material which continue to obtain rendered it impossible for the Board to take advantage of opportunities to reduce the number of houses independently supplied within their area in the course of the year.

ADMINISTRATION.

As the Health Department, no less than the sister departments of the Council, had already been denuded of its staff to the point of danger, it was considered advisable by the Committee of the Council specially appointed for the purpose, to submit appeals to the Rhondda Local

Tribunal in respect of the few remaining eligible members of military age. Some of the gaps formed by the enlistment of the members already on military or naval service have been temporarily filled by women substitutes who have performed the work allotted to them surprisingly well and who, with the further experience gained since their appointment, have attained a considerable degree of competence which they have diligently and loyally devoted to the interests of the department. The retention of the services of Mr. A. O. Morgan, the deputy chief clerk, in the absence on service of the chief clerk (Mr. T. J. Rees), has made it possible to utilise to the best advantage the clerical service available. Resort to substitution has however been impracticable in the case of the medical and inspectorial staff. The appointment of Dr. Helena G. Jones, largely with the special object of furthering the welfare of the mothers and children of the district, has provided welcome assistance in the performance of the purely medical work of the department. By increasing the commencing salary from £80 to £95 per annum, it was also possible, during the year, to increase the number of health visitors and school nurses to what may be considered for the time being as the normal complement of twelve attached to the department.

MILK AND OTHER FOOD SUPPLIES.

The chief powers of control possessed by the Council over the production and distribution of milk are provided by the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order, 1885, and the Regulations made thereunder, the latter having been in force in the district since April 1st, 1906. Some powers were also obtained by the Council in their Act of 1905, and relate to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease by means of milk. The persons now engaged in the production, sale, or distribution of milk

within the district consist of the following classes in the numbers indicated:—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk	...					38
Purveyors of Milk and Milk-shop Keepers						144

Of the three groups, the first and the third show a diminution as compared with those of the previous year, and, correspondingly, there is a reduction in the amount of milk produced within the district of 28.6 per cent., whereas the amount imported has increased to the extent of 236 gallons per diem, or 10.6 per cent., as compared with the previous year.

It is also estimated that the cows within the district yielded an average of 379 gallons per diem in the course of the year, while the additional quantity of 2,470 gallons is daily imported into the district mainly from Somersetshire, Glamorganshire, and Gloucestershire. The total quantity of ordinary cows' milk thus consumed in the area amounted to nearly one and a half million gallons a year, and is equivalent to an average allowance of .20 pint per day for every individual in the district, an increase of .07 pint on the previous year, the figures for the four immediately preceding years, 1913 to 1916, being .16, .16, .14, and .13 respectively.

Many of the recommendations of The Board of Agriculture Committee referred to in the report for 1916 are already in operation, and, as already mentioned, the quantity of milk available per head of the Rhondda population was actually greater than in the year preceding the outbreak of war. Moreover a considerable quantity of condensed and dried milk is sold in the district, although the amount of the former obtainable appears to have been less than in former years. This scarcity however may have been due, partly or entirely, to the exceptional demand for condensed milk for sweetening purposes in lieu of the scarcer commodity sugar.

The 195 premises concerned with the production or distribution of milk in the Rhondda were periodically inspected during the year by the district inspectors under whose supervision they are placed.

During the year, 1,436 visits were made also to the 32 private slaughter-houses in use in the district, there being no municipal slaughter-houses in the area. With regard to cleanliness and the general observance of the bye-laws they were fairly well kept. The abolition of many of them would serve to remove nuisances and annoyances which have long been inflicted upon the occupants of neighbouring dwelling-houses. It should however be added that many of them were in existence long before the houses whose inmates now so bitterly complain of the proximity of the slaughter-houses and its attendant evils.

FOOD CONTROL.

Under the provisions of The Local Authorities (Food Control) Order (No. 1), 1917, dated May 8th, 1917, the administration of the Food Control Orders was placed upon the Health Department as from June 8th, and entailed considerable activity on the part of the staff. The result of the various operations promoted are set out in the appended summary:—

Number of Orders received	...	...	...	86
„ of Shops visited	...	...	...	3,721
„ of visits to other premises re waste	...	...	...	2,185
„ of loaves of bread weighed	...	...	...	3,164
„ of packets of tea weighed	...	...	...	163
„ of other visits	...	...	...	3

Legal proceedings were taken against 47 offenders in respect of 52 offences, in 35 of which convictions were obtained and fines were imposed to an aggregate amount of £39 7s. 6d., with costs amounting to £5 10s. 0d. Two

cases were discharged, six were dismissed, one was withdrawn, and eight were adjourned *sine die*.

In order to administer the numerous Food Control Orders to the best advantage, close co-operation with the Police Authorities and with the Local Food Control Committee when appointed was essential. Towards the end of the year the latter, with Mr. T. D. Lawrence as Executive Officer, undertook the performance of some of the duties connected with Food Control, which were formerly carried out by the Health Department of the Council.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

Beyond the usual systematic supervision and the issue of a number of warnings, no steps were taken in the course of the year towards the prevention or punishment of offences against the applicable provision of the Rhondda Urban District Council (Tramways Extensions, &c.) Act, 1910.

Pollution of many of the streams in the district still continues, although to a less extent than formerly, the chief offenders being certain colliery companies which are apparently hard put to it for tipping space for their spoil heaps, their failure to provide river protection works being attributed, perhaps rightly, to lack of labour and material owing to war conditions. The forms of pollution to which our streams are subject are practically limited to house-refuse from houses built on or close to the banks, overflows from over-charged sewers, and such as are incidental to the winning and working of coal and the production of certain bye-products derivable from coal.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The crippling effect attributable to the war upon the building industry is well exemplified in the Rhondda in

the number of both plans of dwelling-houses submitted to the Council for approval as well as of the new houses certified for occupation in the course of the year. The former total amounted to only 17 plans,—all of which were approved,—as compared with an annual average of 649 during the preceding 28 years, and the latter to only 26, as contrasted with an average of 483 during the 19 previous years (see appended tables).

As however 12 complete houses in respect of which closing orders had been served in the previous year were again rendered fit in the course of the year under review, whereas only 7 houses were closed as unfit during the same period, there was a nett gain of 31 houses which were made available for occupation throughout the year.

The appended table sets out the number of houses passed for occupation since the year 1898:—

In 1898 there were 317 new houses passed for occupation.

„ 1899	„	157	„	„	„
„ 1900	„	148	„	„	„
„ 1901	„	187	„	„	„
„ 1902	„	334	„	„	„
„ 1903	„	483	„	„	„
„ 1904	„	594	„	„	„
„ 1905	„	317	„	„	„
„ 1906	„	879	„	„	„
„ 1907	„	827	„	„	„
„ 1908	„	829	„	„	„
„ 1909	„	1,025	„	„	„
„ 1910	„	926	„	„	„
„ 1911	„	769	„	„	„
„ 1912	„	439	„	„	„
„ 1913	„	358	„	„	„
„ 1914	„	308	„	„	„
„ 1915	„	146	„	„	„
„ 1916	„	129	„	„	„
„ 1917	„	26	„	„	„

The local distribution of the houses whose erection was completed and whose occupation was effected during the year is shown in the following table:—

4 houses were passed for occupation in No. 1 Ward.					
3	”	”	”	”	2 ”
1	”	”	”	”	3 ”
5	”	”	”	”	4 ”
5	”	”	”	”	5 ”
—	”	”	”	”	6 ”
7	”	”	”	”	7 ”
—	”	”	”	”	8 ”
1	”	”	”	”	9 ”
—	”	”	”	”	10 ”
—					
26	Rhondda				

Since the outbreak of the war a large number of men has been withdrawn from the district for national service, with the consequence that the normal increase in the population was materially reduced if not completely neutralized. This process however has not necessarily influenced the demand for houses to a corresponding extent, for the effect of the withdrawal has been in the main to reduce the size of individual families rather than the total number of families in the district. Moreover there has been a considerable influx of newcomers,—many accompanied or followed by their families,—to replace those who have left, so that the requirements of the many who naturally desire to set up establishments for themselves for the first time cannot be adequately met. It is in fact a matter of common experience that the difficulties in securing a house in the district are often insuperable. It is now recognized by those who have opportunities to form correct judgments from the evidence obtainable

- (1) that there is at present a great dearth of houses in the district;

- (2) that this scarcity will be to some extent accentuated at the end of the war, not only or even chiefly owing to the return of a large number of the men now on national service, but also in consequence of the increased industrial activity which may be expected to follow, in the Rhondda at least, where the cessation of hostilities cannot result in the discontinuance of industries which owe their existence to the war; it will not be altogether unexpected if the pressure for houses will become so overwhelmingly and compellingly great after the end of the war that it may become necessary to seek temporary relief in the acquisition of a number of the many thousands of temporary dwellings which have been set up throughout the country to meet the demand of industries created by the war; and
- (3) that private enterprise cannot be depended upon to meet more than a small fraction of the requirements.

The Council have consequently, in addition to entering into negotiations for the purchase of a site for a considerable number of houses between Ferndale and Maerdy, already prepared one housing scheme which will provide about 120 houses at Penygraig, the exact number being dependent upon the final decision of the Local Government Board as to the number of houses per acre which they will sanction. The announced requirements of the Board that the number of houses to the acre shall not exceed 12 seems to need some relaxation in its application to the Rhondda, if it is not to throttle all the earnest efforts, made and contemplated, which are designed to adequately meet the situation. The combination of circumstances which earmarks this district for exceptional treatment may be said to embrace the following points:—

- (1) the extraordinary general conformation of the area and its immediate surroundings serves to curtail to an unusual extent the amount of land available for building purposes ;
- (2) nearly all the remaining fragments of land that can be considered to be obtainable are so irregular and sloping in character, that the cost of building thereon will be inevitably increased ;
- (3) the promotion of ultra-expensive housing schemes which will saddle on the community a heavy annual charge will serve to seriously cripple the Council's activities in other directions in which improvements and developments are urgently needed ;
- (4) the exceptional configuration of the district to which reference is made in (1), renders less necessary, in the interests of public health, the need for ample air space around individual houses or groups of houses, which, in the Rhondda, are of necessity more exposed and less subject to stagnation in their surroundings than are houses built on level ground ; and
- (5) although the population of the urban district is approximately 170,000, it is not housed in a compact mass of dwelling-houses on a comparatively small area, but the district's 28,000 houses are distributed along narrow valleys of an aggregate length of 15 or 16 miles, with the consequence that even the largest aggregations of houses in the area are bounded on at least two sides, not by other and similar aggregations with narrow intervening spaces, but by ranges of hills which are now and will doubtless remain unbuilt upon.

Indeed one might reasonably advance the view that any land available in excess of the minimum requirements of the houses should be devoted, not to increasing the area belonging to each house, but to the formation or enlargement of playgrounds for the use of the children of the neighbourhood.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1909.

In consequence of the increasingly abnormal conditions, including reduction of staff, arising out of the war, there were, during the year, only 1,606 houses systematically inspected under the provisions of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. This total shows a decrease of 3,269 in the number of inspections made as compared with that of the previous year.

A memorandum of the Local Government Board suggested to Local Authorities that they should

“ Refrain from requiring the execution of work, the cost of which has to be borne by private individuals, unless the work is urgently necessary for the removal of nuisances or the protection of health,”

and in respect of 1,126, or 70.0 per cent., of the houses inspected, this instruction was observed.

In 124, or 11.0 per cent., of these 1,126 houses, some of the defects discovered at the inspection were of the exceptional kind referred to in the above quotation, and it was considered necessary to serve notices for their removal under the Public Health Acts. Of the remaining 494 houses inspected (see Table I.), all the defects found in 14, or 0.9 per cent., of the total, were also of the exceptional character referred to, and notices in respect thereof were

Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909, Table I. : Inspections made and Notices served during 1917.

Locality.	Sanitary District.	Ward.	No. of empty houses in inspected area.	No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses in which were found structural defects and nuisances.		No. of houses in respect of which preliminary notices were served to execute work and abate nuisances under P.H. Act, 1875.	No. of houses in which no defects requiring action were found.	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served upon occupiers.
					H.T.P. Act, 1909.	P.H. Act, 1875.			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Treherbert ..	1	1	—	25	—	1	1	24	33
Treorchy ..	1	2	—	109	—	10	10	99	51
Gelli ..	2	4	—	183	—	3	3	180	—
Llwynypia ..	3	5	—	12	—	—	—	12	—
Tonypandy ..	3	5	—	19	—	—	—	19	—
Penygraig ..	4	7	—	119	—	—	—	119	—
Dinas ..	4	7	—	11	—	—	—	11	—
Cymmer ..	4	8	—	16	—	—	—	16	—
Totals ..	..	..	—	494	—	14	14	480	84

served upon the owners to abate the nuisances under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875. In 480 houses, or 29.8 per cent., of those inspected, no defects requiring action, now or in the immediate future, were observed at the time of inspection, as compared with 23.6 per cent. pertaining to the inspection carried out in the previous year.

It is therefore to be understood that in the remainder of the houses,—after the exclusion from the total inspected of those in which no defects were found (480), those in respect of which notices were served with regard to all the defects (14), and those in which some only of the defects required immediate attention (124),—the requirements discovered were not of a kind urgently demanding action “ for the removal of nuisances or the protection of health.” In this group 988 houses are included.

Reference to Table II. will show that notices served in respect of 4,918 houses remained uncomplied with at the end of 1916, as against 4,729 at the close of the year under review. Of the latter 1,889 are notices served under the provisions of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, compliance with whose requirements are not pressed under existing circumstances. Of the outstanding notices 844 relate to houses owned by the various Colliery Companies, and 247 to other combinations or associations.

The increase in price of building material, the restrictions imposed in connection with its purchase, and the unprecedented scarcity of skilled labour combined to render the obligations of owners in respect of notices served difficult or impossible to comply with.

In the course of the year it was found necessary to prosecute 7 owners in respect of 8 houses for non-compliance with the requirements of the Council. Particulars of these proceedings have been given in an earlier section of this report.

Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909, Table II.—Summary of results of notices served.

LOCALITY.	Sanitary District.	Ward	No. of Houses in respect of which preliminary notices were satisfactorily complied with.		No. of Houses reported to Committee as requiring Statutory Notices.		No. of Houses in respect of which notices were not complied with at end of 1916.		No. of Houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were satisfactorily complied with.		No. of Houses which the owners elected to close instead of complying with notices.		No. of Houses at which the Committee executed the works in default of Owner.		No. of houses in respect of which notices were not complied with at end of 1917.	
			P.H. Act, 1875.		P.H. Act, 1909.		P.H. Act, 1875.		P.H. Act, 1909.		P.H. Act, 1875.		P.H. Act, 1909.		P.H. Act, 1875.	
			Owner.	Occupier.	H.T.P. Act, 1909.	Owner.	Occupier.	H.T.P. Act, 1909.	Owner.	Occupier.	H.T.P. Act, 1909.	Owner.	Occupier.	H.T.P. Act, 1909.	Owner.	Occupier.
Blaenrhon'da	1	1	...	...	...	...	60	122	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	122
Blaenyewm	1	1	...	...	...	...	39	23	6	...	1	...	...	...	39	24
Treherbert...	1	1	...	11	...	1	22	66	121	93	...	54	...	...	66	122
Treorchy	1	2	2	39	...	8	12	82	99	13	2	11	...	...	80	105
Cwmparc	1	2	...	...	...	...	55	145	71	3	...	...	...	...	52	145
Pentre	2	3	...	...	...	...	48	74	39	1	4	11	...	...	47	70
Ystrad	2	3	...	...	...	...	95	147	10	9	11	...	...	...	86	136
Ton-Pentre	2	3	...	...	...	...	48	133	17	2	10	1	...	...	46	123
Gelli	2	4	1	...	...	2	55	30	...	...	5	...	...	...	55	27
Llwynypia...	3	5	...	...	...	...	20	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	59
Clydach Vale	3	5	...	...	...	...	74	107	19	11	9	...	...	...	63	98
Tonypandy	3	5	...	...	...	...	16	24	12	...	...	1	...	...	16	24
Tonypandy	3	6	...	...	...	...	33	83	7	...	...	5	...	...	33	83
Trealaw	3	6	...	...	...	...	38	66	5	...	...	...	...	...	38	66
Trealaw	4	6	...	...	...	...	15	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	33
Penygraig	4	7	...	...	...	...	256	241	24	1	1	...	...	...	255	240
Williamston	4	7	...	...	...	...	141	144	9	...	...	4	...	...	141	144
Edmundston	4	7	...	...	...	...	15	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	9
Penrhiwfer	4	7	...	...	...	...	27	25	7	...	...	...	...	...	27	25
Gilfach Goch	4	7	...	...	...	...	15	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	27
Dinas	4	7	...	...	...	...	7	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Trebanog	4	8	...	...	...	...	117	56	3	...	...	...	...	...	117	56
Cymmer	4	8	...	...	...	...	62	87	6	...	...	...	...	...	62	87
Trehafod	5	8	...	...	...	...	21	36	2	...	...	...	...	...	21	36
Porth	5	8	...	...	...	...	162	346	19	14	23	...	...	...	148	323
Porth	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	29	...	...	24	...	...	...	2
Ynyslir	5	9	...	...	...	...	61	177	70	5	10	...	...	...	56	167
Wattstown	5	9	...	...	...	...	72	102	4	2	3	...	...	...	70	99
Pontygwaith	5	9	...	...	...	...	28	5	79	...	...	69	...	...	28	5
Stanleytown	5	9	...	...	...	...	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4
Tylorstown	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tylorstown	6	9	...	...	...	...	10	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	10	8
Ferndale	6	10	...	...	...	...	161	304	14	25	41	1	...	...	136	263
Blaenllechau	6	10	...	...	...	...	39	53	3	1	1	...	...	...	38	55
Maerdy	6	10	...	...	...	...	17	43	...	...	2	...	...	...	17	41
TOTALS	...	...	3	50	...	11	34	1965	2953	551	76	124	181	...	1889	2840

Of the 1,606 houses inspected, in 84 cases, or 5.2 per cent., the occupiers were served with preliminary notices, and of these 34 were served with statutory notices, but in no instance was it found necessary to prosecute for non-compliance with the specified requirements.

Table III. sets out in detail the amount of work executed and the nuisances abated, the aggregate number amounting,—after the grouping of similar defects,—to 1,247. This number is considerably lower than in previous years owing to the conditions arising out of the war. The delay experienced in the execution of the work in response to notices served, which has become almost unavoidable, adds to the worries and responsibilities and involves increased activity on the part of Chief Inspector J. Towy Thomas and the district sanitary inspectors. In consequence of a repetition of complaints received arising from the non-abatement of the nuisances, frequent visits have to be made to the defective premises and often several meetings have to be arranged with the owners with a view to the adoption of measures of amelioration or to secure partial or temporary rectification of the defects.

PROCEDURE UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE ACT. As a result of the inspections made 7 houses were found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation, and upon representations to the Council, closing orders were made in respect of them in accordance with Section 17 (2) of the Act.

No action was taken during the year under Section 18 of the Act relating to demolition, but 2 houses were voluntarily demolished by the owners.

During the year, 22 closing orders were determined in accordance with Section 17 (6), the houses having been repaired and rendered fit for human habitation. Of this number 10 were in respect of lower tenements, in each instance of which the relation between the upper and

House-to-House Inspection (Table III).—Work Executed under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Wd. 10	Totals.
1.—Slop Sinks	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3
2.—Water Closet:—	4
(a) Provision of New Closet
(b) Conversion into Water Closet
(c) Walls, roofs, doors, floors, seats, etc., repaired	1	2	5	10	18	...	2	...	3	27	84
(d) Flushing Cisterns repaired or renewed	1	...	4	5	4	...	...	6	5	16	41
(e) New Flushing Cisterns provided	...	3	2	2	...	...	...	7	...	11	25
(f) Soil pipes repaired	2	...	2	...	4
(g) Filthy W.C.	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	17
(h) Pans renewed	3	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
3.—House:—
(a) External walls, roofs, chimney stacks, doors, and windows repaired	1	4	12	5	18	...	2	14	7	35	98
(b) Internal walls, doors, floors, (I.) boarded, (II.) paved, skirting, stairs, plastering, fireplaces and mantelpieces repaired	3	6	19	...	1	17	8	38	95
(c) Dampness abated by removal of earth	...	2	3	8	1	...	2	5	4	10	35
(d) Bedrooms ventilated	...	3	3	4	10	...	1	8	6	20	55
(e) Windows made openable	...	2	4	2	6	...	...	1	1	3	19
(f) Increased window area in rooms	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
(g) Light provided in pantry	1	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	3
(h) Boundary walls (I.) new (II.) rebuilt (III.) repaired	6
4.—Drains:—	2	...	...	22	49
(a) Lip trap to stoneware syphon gully trap	...	1	1	3	1	...	...	2	...	1	9
(b) Ventilating shaft repaired	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	5
(c) Defective Drainage—(I.) Choked W.C. (II.) Broken, leaky, or otherwise defective drain (III.) Inspection chamber provided... (IV.) Additional surface water drain	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	4
5.—Area:—(a) Areas repaired	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5	8	6	...	2	14	12	25	72

House-to-House Inspection—(continued).

	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Wd. 10	Totals.
(b) Areas repaired and extended (I.) To less than 150 square feet (II.) To 150 square feet or more	1 ..	1 3	2 4	1 11	.. 18	.. ..	.. ..	5 7	2 4	2 23	14 70
(c) Retaining Walls (I.) New (II.) Rebuilt (III.) Repaired	.. .. ..	.. 1 ..	.. 2 ..	.. 8 ..	.. 2 ..	.. .. ..	1 1 ..	.. .. 3	.. .. ..	2 3 15	3 5 28
(d) Steps repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
6.—Shoots and down pipes repaired or fixed anew	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
7.—Dilapidated structures removed or repaired	1	5	11	6	..	..	..	13	4	47	1
8.—Structures on area removed from :— (a) Obstructing lighting or ventilation of house (b) enclosidg gully trap (c) Drains ventilated (d) Dampness abated	.. .. .. ..	.. .. .. ..	.. .. 2 ..	2 .. 6 ..	.. 1 19	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	2 1 ..	4 1 1
11.—Overcrowding :— (a) by one family... (b) by one family and lodgers (c) by more than one family	2	1	3	2 .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	1 .. ..	.. .. ..	1 .. ..	.. .. ..	9 1 1
12.—Fowl and pigeon cots :— (a) disposed of (b) removed beyond 10 feet from the house	1 6	.. 13	.. 11	.. ..	.. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 26
13.—Accumulation of refuse removed	..	6	11	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	18
14.—Coal :— (a) removed from back area (b) removed from inside the house	26 41	33 3	.. ..	1 ..	.. ..	3 1	.. ..	.. ..	77 31	.. ..	140 76
TOTALS ..	84	97	85	93	149	5	26	141	193	368	1217

lower tenements was altered so as to permit the occupation of the two as part of one house.

The following table gives particulars concerning some of the features of the work carried on in the course of the year:—

The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	} 1,606
The number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	} 7
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders	} 7
The number of closing orders made	7
The number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	} 203
The number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	} 22

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 & 1913.

Number of Shops in district in 1916	2,569
New Shops established in 1917	173
Shops removed from Register in 1917	223
Nett decrease of Shops in 1917	50
Number of Shops in district in 1917	2,519
Number of Shops subject to Local Closing Orders	1,128

Number of shops at which assistants are employed	824
Number of shops exempted from Weekly Half- Holiday Order	283
Number of Legal Proceedings under the Shops Acts in 1917	49

The systematic supervision of the shops throughout the district and the duty of securing compliance with the provisions of the Shops Acts were, as in the two previous years, entirely entrusted to Inspector R. Thwaites, his colleague, Inspector T. Osborne, being still on active service.

The number of legal proceedings in respect of offences against the provisions of the Shops Acts amounted to 49 in the course of the year and involved premises situated in each of the ten district wards, the nature of the offences including failure to exhibit statutory notices, keeping shops open during prohibited hours, want of seats, and the employment of assistants on specified half-holidays. In a number of cases the defendants had been prosecuted on previous occasions for similar offences and in the majority of instances warnings had been given prior to the commission of the offences leading to the institution of proceedings.

The accompanying table furnishes statistical records relating to the shops in the district. As compared with those for the previous year it is noteworthy that there were 50 fewer shops in 1917, that there was a diminution in the number of shops in which assistants were engaged, that the number of assistants had increased by 58 owing to the larger number of female assistants over 18 employed, the number of males of all ages so engaged having diminished by 127.

Report of the Shops Inspector for the Year 1917.

TRADE.	Total Number of Shops.	Number of Shops in which Assistants are employed.	Number of Assistants employed.						WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY.							Number subject to Local Closing Order.	Legal Action Taken.			
			Males.			Females.			Shops.				Assistants.							
			Under 18	Over 18		Under 18	Over 18		Monday	Thursday	Saturday	Exempt.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday			Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bazaars and Fancy Dealers ..	17	9				13	13		—	17	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	1	
Boot and Shoe Dealers ..	105	45	27	25	4	12	54	182	105	105	—	—	—	105	8	—	115	—	105	
Butchers and Meat Purveyors ..	162	56	40	43	4	19	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	152	
Chemists, Herbalists and Drug Stores ..	32	23	18	16	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	1	1	48	3	—	—	
Confectioners and Bread Dealers ..	143	56	—	1	14	66	—	—	—	—	—	143	—	17	22	38	—	—	—	
Dairy Products and Milk Shops ..	25	2	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	25	—	10	—	4	—	—	—	
Drapers, Hosiery and Milliners ..	211	105	24	19	158	284	—	—	—	211	—	—	—	5	10	475	—	—	211	
Fried Fish and Chip Shops ..	91	17	2	1	9	20	—	—	—	—	—	91	—	—	16	1	—	—	—	
Furniture, Musical Instruments, and Sewing Machine Dealers ..	46	21	6	20	1	26	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	53	—	—	—	46	
Grocers, Fruiters, and Florists ..	257	52	2	21	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	252	—	4	26	34	29	—	—	
Grocers and Provision Dealers ..	277	179	174	175	83	319	—	—	—	277	—	—	—	61	1	639	—	—	277	
Hairdressers ..	106	38	32	10	5	3	—	—	—	106	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	106	
Hardware, Chinaware, Tinware, Paper, Paint and Oil Vendors ..	55	3	—	1	4	6	—	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	55	
Ironmongers, Plumbers, Gas, Water and Sanitary Fittings Dealers ..	46	17	11	7	2	10	—	—	—	43	3	—	—	1	29	—	1	—	46	
Newsagents, Tobacconists, Stationers & Booksellers ..	93	10	—	1	11	16	—	—	—	9	1	93	—	2	2	21	2	—	—	
Photographers and Picture Framers ..	10	4	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	14	16	3	—	—	
Refreshment Houses and Temperance Bars ..	67	23	9	16	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Restaurants, Cooked Meat Shops, Coffee Rooms, and Oyster Bars ..	28	8	—	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	1	5	7	—	—	—	
Retailers of Intoxicating Liquors ..	133	73	—	7	5	119	—	—	—	—	—	133	—	2	23	53	44	9	—	
Sweet Shops ..	42	5	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	
Tailors, Clothiers, and Outfitters ..	96	37	25	27	4	28	—	—	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	84	—	—	96	
Watchmakers and Jewellers ..	34	7	1	2	5	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	34	
Miscellaneous ..	58	15	9	5	2	10	—	—	—	43	3	12	1	1	1	23	—	—	—	
Totals ..	2519	824	380	379	369	1107	—	—	152	1042	7	1318	116	157	143	1800	18	1	1123	

A Closing Order made under Regulation 10 B of The Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regulations, 1914, was in operation throughout the year and was enforced by the Police Authorities, but the hour of closing under the Order is, in the majority of instances, later than that fixed by the Rhondda Closing Order under the Shops Act, 1912.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT, 1903.

During the year there was a large increase of child labour in the shops throughout the district. Most of the children employed were between 13 and 14 years of age, and the duties devolving upon them usually consisted in the delivery of goods and the running of errands. As their work is performed mainly off the premises, the children thus employed do not fall within the definition of shop assistants.

In the course of the year, proceedings were instituted in two instances for the employment of boys under 14 years of age till a late hour on Saturday.

The bye-laws framed under the Act for regulating street-trading are chiefly administered by the County Police Authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Section 132 of this Act, which became operative on January 1st, 1902, requires that:—"The Medical Officer of Health of every District Council shall, in his annual report to them, report specially on the administration of this Act in workshops and workplaces, and he shall send a copy of his annual report, or so much of it as deals with the subject, to the Secretary of State."

No new industries have been established in the district during the war, and the question of the employment of

women in factories and workshops is practically non-existent.

The number of workshops throughout the district in 1917 amounted to 1,067, or 81 fewer than in 1916. The considerable decrease in the number of workshops during the year has affected 16 of the various trades involved, in 6 there has been no change, while 2 show an increase.

During the year 646 visits were made by the district inspectors to factories and workshops within the urban area and served to discover 6 defects capable of being dealt with under the Public Health clauses of the Factory and Workshop Act. Notices served in connection with the sanitary defects found were in all instances satisfactorily complied with.

There are 151 bakehouses in the district, or five fewer than in the previous year. These received 861 visits of inspection, being an increase of 165 as compared with the previous year. Generally speaking, they are small, and, with few exceptions, each gives employment to only one or two persons. Underground bakehouses, in the full sense of the term, do not exist throughout the urban area.

There are practically no outworkers engaged in the district.

All plans for new workshops come before the Surveyor's and Medical Officer's Departments before being submitted to the appropriate Committees for consideration, and adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation is required in all cases.

The following tables set out the number and classification of the workshops in the district and the work done under the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Workshops and Workplaces in the Rhondda in Wards

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Bootmakers ...	10	11	20	14	15	17	9	12	19	11	138
Bakers ...	13	24	21	12	15	8	14	16	14	19	156
Blacksmiths ...	4	1	4	1	2	2	2	3	3	1	23
Barbers ...	8	12	11	11	13	10	8	11	12	8	104
Bottling Stores ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Carpenters ...	6	9	11	6	5	7	4	9	8	10	75
Fried Fish Shops ...	6	11	9	11	10	9	7	11	13	10	97
Coachmakers ...	1	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	2	—	10
Cycle Repairers ...	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	11
Dressmakers ...	16	18	16	16	18	9	5	12	19	15	144
Dressmakers and Milliners (Comb.)	1	2	3	—	—	1	—	3	2	3	15
Glaziers ...	—	2	3	2	—	2	3	1	—	1	14
Jewellers ...	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	5	1	3	28
Laundry ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Milliners ...	6	7	12	6	8	6	4	10	10	11	80
Picture Framers ...	1	2	4	2	—	2	2	—	2	1	16
Printers ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	6
Plumbers ...	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	4	—	1	17
Saddlers ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	6
Monumental Masons...	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	8
Sweet Makers ...	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tailors ...	4	7	16	5	3	6	4	5	5	7	62
Tinmen ...	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	8
Quarries ...	5	4	4	8	—	—	3	2	8	6	40
Totals ...	89	122	147	100	95	93	72	112	124	113	1067

Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories— (Including Factory Laundries).	59	1	—
Workshops. (Including Workshop Laundries).	587	2	—

Defects found in Factories and Workshops.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS—				
Want of Cleanliness.	3	3	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation.	Insufficient	—	—	—
	Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—
	Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s.101) ...	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss.97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
OTHER OFFENCES—				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—	—

Factories and Workshops. Other Matters.

CLASS.	Number.
(1)	
Matters notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	—
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5.)	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; font-size: 4em; line-height: 1;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Defects notified by H.M. Inspector... — Reports (of action taken) sent to Inspector — </div>
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :	
Certificates granted during the year	—
In use at the end of the year	—

APPENDIX.

Table 1.

Population of the Rhondda since 1801.

Year.	Houses.			Persons.			Persons per House.
	In-habited.	Unin-habited.	Build-ing.	Males	Females.	Total.	
a1801				265	277	542	
1811				283	293	576	
1821				309	338	647	
1831				277	265	542	
1841				386	362	748	
1851				493	458	951	
1861	561	107	5	1,669	1,366	3,035	5·4
1871	2,710	32	62	9,559	7,355	16,914	6·2
b1871						23,950	
1881	9,193	340	158	30,877	24,755	55,632	6·0
1891	13,551	146	374	50,174	38,177	88,351	6·5
1901	19,210	368	112	62,315	51,420	113,735	5·92
1911	26,250	457	444	83,209	69,572	152,781	5·82
1917						172,099	

NOTES.

(a) The census returns for 1801 include Rhigos, which is not within the present area of the Rhondda District.

(b) Portions of the Llanwonno and Llantrisant Districts were added to the Rhondda District on October 1st, 1879.

The Registrar-General estimated the population in the enlarged area in 1871 at 23,950.

Table 7.

Number of Births, Birth-rate, number of deaths of children under one year of age, Infantile Mortality-rate, number of Deaths, and Death-rate in each year since 1891.

YEAR.	Total Number of Births	General Birth-rate per 1,000.	Number of deaths of children under one year of age.	Infantile Mortality- rate per 1,000 births.	Total Number of Deaths.	General Death- rate per 1,000.
1891	3,935	44.3	862	219	2,255	25.4
1892	3,916	42.9	757	193	1,804	19.8
1893	4,149	44.3	932	225	2,132	22.8
1894	3,715	38.7	757	204	1,706	17.7
1895	4,245	43.1	997	235	2,246	22.8
1896	4,328	42.9	855	198	2,105	20.8
1897	4,109	39.7	838	204	2,049	20.1
1898	4,120	38.8	793	192	1,979	18.8
1899	4,089	37.5	1,016	248	2,419	22.4
1900	4,469	40.0	839	188	2,181	19.9
1901	4,586	40.0	1,020	222	2,431	21.2
1902	4,937	41.8	883	179	2,190	18.6
1903	4,897	40.3	778	159	1,998	16.4
1904	4,860	38.8	925	190	2,345	18.7
1905	4,664	36.2	927	199	2,402	18.6
1906	4,751	35.8	821	173	2,074	15.6
1907	4,831	35.3	782	162	2,133	15.6
1908	5,454	38.7	1,002	184	2,516	17.9
1909	5,577	38.4	724	130	2,231	15.4
1910	5,628	37.7	770	137	2,181	14.6
1911	5,491	35.7	902	164	2,352	15.3
1912	5,236	33.1	666	127	2,182	13.8
1913	5,505	34.0	766	139	2,360	14.6
1914	5,558	34.2	762	137	2,410	14.8
1915	4,983	30.0	567	114	2,218	14.2
1916	4,481	26.8	471	105	1,940	12.6
1917	4,145	24.1	425	103	1,977	12.8

Table 8.

Showing the number of houses, estimated population, number of deaths, and death-rate per 1,000 for each Ward.

Wards.		Number of occupied houses.	Estimated (civil) population to middle of 1917.	Number of deaths from all causes	Death rate per 1,000.
1	...	2,521	.. 14,114	... 161	... 11·4
2	...	2,955	... 16,394	.. 2 2	... 12·3
3	...	2,159	.. 11,440	.. 144	... 12 6
4	...	2,188	... 11,840	... 127	... 10·7
5	...	2,727	... 15,010	... 202	... 13 5
6	...	2,581	... 14,408	... 135	... 11·5
7	...	2,447	... 12,012	... 148	... 12·3
8	...	3 437	... 16,615	... 269	... 16·2
9	...	4,057	... 23,392	... 335	... 14 3
10	...	3 312	... 19,163	... 224	... 11 7
Rhondja...		23 384	... 154,388	... 1,977	... 12·8

Table 12.

Showing the number of deaths in the Rhondda from the principal Zymotic Diseases since 1897.

Year.	Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Fevers.			Diarrhoea.	Total Zymotic Deaths.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Average Zymotic Death-rate of Ten Years.
						Typhus.	Enteric.	Simple Continued.				
1897	-	138	19	52	78	-	28	-	61	376	3.6	3.5
1898	-	16	14	33	146	-	40	1	105	355	3.3	
1899	-	-	10	70	186	-	55	-	169	489	4.4	
1900	-	121	35	58	125	-	24	-	118	481	4.3	
1901	-	3	43	33	135	-	53	-	327	595	5.2	
1902	1	109	27	40	81	-	21	-	109	389	3.3	
1903	-	8	38	52	42	-	44	-	109	293	2.4	
1904	-	102	20	53	32	-	42	-	211	460	3.7	
1905	-	84	11	55	16	-	15	1	172	354	2.7	
1906	-	24	9	27	25	-	20	-	206	311	2.4	
1907	-	68	9	26	20	-	22	-	147	292	2.1	2.1
1908	-	102	7	54	32	-	21	-	319	535	3.8	
1909	-	47	15	27	35	-	4	-	130	258	1.8	
1910	-	25	24	41	15	-	12	-	115	232	1.6	
1911	-	144	19	18	21	-	18	-	313	533	3.5	
1912	-	127	19	80	19	-	16	-	39	300	1.9	
1913	-	57	22	15	53	-	12	1	174	334	2.1	
1914	-	84	10	44	36	-	5	-	103	282	1.7	
1915	-	58	12	47	29	-	9	-	53	213	1.4	
1916	-	41	8	14	17	-	5	-	55	140	.9	
1917	-	52	5	26	23	1	6	-	16	129	.8	

Table 13.—Comparing the Death-rates from Zymotic Diseases during the years 1897-1917, in the Rhondda with those of similar Diseases in England and Wales (per 1,000 living).

Year.	Small-pox.		Measles.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Diphtheria.		FEVERS.			Diarrhoea.		Total Zymotic Deaths.		Zymotic Death-rate.	
	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Enteric.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.	Rhondda.	England and Wales.
1897	—	—	1.33	1.10	1.18	1.14	1.50	1.31	1.75	1.24	1.27	1.15	—	1.58	1.85	376	3.6	2.1	—
1898	—	1.01	1.15	1.41	1.13	1.11	1.31	1.37	1.37	1.24	1.37	1.18	—	1.98	1.96	355	3.3	2.2	—
1899	—	—	—	1.31	1.09	1.12	1.64	1.30	1.70	1.29	1.50	1.20	—	1.55	1.98	489	4.4	2.2	—
1900	—	1.01	1.09	1.39	1.31	1.12	1.51	1.34	1.12	1.29	1.21	1.17	—	1.05	1.69	481	4.3	2.0	—
1901	—	—	—	—	1.37	1.13	1.28	1.30	1.18	1.27	1.46	1.17	—	1.85	1.91	597	5.2	2.0	—
1902	0.08	1.03	1.89	1.38	1.23	1.15	1.34	1.29	1.68	1.23	1.13	1.13	—	1.92	1.38	389	3.3	1.64	1.16
1903	—	1.02	1.06	1.27	1.31	1.12	1.42	1.27	1.34	1.18	1.35	1.10	—	1.90	1.50	293	2.4	1.46	1.16
1904	—	1.01	1.81	1.36	1.16	1.11	1.42	1.34	1.26	1.17	1.34	1.09	—	1.68	1.86	460	3.7	1.94	1.16
1905	—	—	1.65	1.32	1.00	1.11	1.43	1.25	1.13	1.16	1.12	1.09	—	1.34	1.59	354	2.7	1.52	1.16
1906	—	—	1.18	1.27	1.07	1.10	1.20	1.23	1.18	1.17	1.15	1.09	—	1.55	1.87	311	2.4	1.73	1.16
1907	—	—	1.50	1.36	1.07	1.09	1.19	1.29	1.14	1.16	1.16	1.07	—	1.08	1.29	292	2.1	1.26	1.16
1908	—	1.15	1.73	1.22	1.05	1.08	1.39	1.27	1.23	1.15	1.15	1.07	—	1.27	1.50	535	3.8	1.29	1.16
1909	—	—	1.33	1.35	1.10	1.09	1.19	1.20	1.24	1.14	1.03	1.06	—	1.85	1.28	258	1.8	1.12	1.16
1910	—	—	1.17	1.23	1.16	1.06	1.27	1.24	1.10	1.12	1.12	1.07	—	1.77	1.29	232	1.6	1.09	1.16
1911	—	—	1.94	1.36	1.12	1.05	1.12	1.21	1.14	1.13	1.12	1.07	—	2.03	1.06	533	3.5	1.88	1.16
1912	—	—	1.80	1.35	1.12	1.05	1.51	1.23	1.12	1.11	1.10	1.04	—	1.25	—	300	1.9	—	—
1913	—	—	1.35	1.28	1.14	1.06	1.09	1.14	1.33	1.12	1.08	1.04	—	1.07	—	234	2.1	—	—
1914	—	—	1.52	1.24	1.06	1.08	1.27	1.21	1.20	1.15	1.03	1.05	—	1.62	—	282	1.7	—	—
1915	—	—	1.37	1.43	1.08	1.06	1.30	1.21	1.19	1.15	1.06	1.04	—	1.37	—	213	1.4	—	—
1916	—	—	1.27	1.15	1.05	1.04	1.09	1.16	1.11	1.14	1.03	1.03	—	1.36	—	140	0.9	—	—
1917	—	—	1.34	1.30	1.13	1.02	1.17	1.13	1.15	1.13	1.04	1.03	—	1.10	—	129	0.8	—	—

Table 18.

Showing the number of cases, and incidence of the Notifiable Diseases in the Rhondda since compulsory notification was adopted in 1894.

Year.	Cases Notified.	Estimated Population.	Incidence per 1,000 of Population.
1894	625	95,904	6.6
1895	933	98,356	9.5
1896	1,241	100,870	12.3
1897	1,031	103,445	9.9
1898	1,652	106,094	15.6
1899	2,709	108,807	24.8
1900	3,214	111,587	28.8
1901	3,039	114,587	26.5
1902	1,879	118,020	15.9
1903	1,597	121,557	13.1
1904	1,240	125,199	9.9
1905	534	128,951	4.1
1906	779	132,814	5.9
1907	773	136,794	5.7
1908	862	140,894	6.1
1909	1,091	145,116	7.5
1910	1,530	149,464	10.2
1911	1,261	153,775	8.2
1912	1,652	157,951	10.5
1913	1,820	162,137	11.2
1914	1,646	162,592	10.1
1915	1,274	156,260	8.2
1916	3,572	153,373	23.3
1917	3,376	154,338	21.9

Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Erysipelas and Puerperal Fever, became notifiable on 1st January, 1894.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis became notifiable on 1st January, 1912.

All other forms of Tuberculosis, became notifiable on 1st February, 1913.

Cerebro-spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis, became notifiable on 1st September, 1912.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, became notifiable on 1st April, 1914.

Measles and German Measles, became notifiable on 1st January, 1916.

Table 49.

Summary of District Inspector's Work, 1917.

DISTRICT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total.
Accumulation of Refuse	47	1	23	11	4	27	113
„ „ Manure..	—	1	4	6	6	8	25
Blocked Drain ..	211	129	101	152	194	50	837
Blocked W.C. ..	37	54	59	98	40	31	319
Defective Drain ..	6	32	33	16	59	27	173
Lip Trap to Gully Trap	2	—	4	1	3	—	10
Unventilated Drain ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Ventilating Pipe	2	4	3	—	1	—	10
Waste Pipe Direct ...	—	1	—	—	—	3	4
No Water in W.C. ...	4	—	12	—	15	27	58
Dilapidated or Filthy W.C.	19	46	41	25	10	30	171
No W.C. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dilapidated Back Area	4	7	11	15	7	18	62
Defective or no Rain Water Shoots	55	46	55	38	105	31	430
Dirty Houses ..	9	3	1	—	3	8	24
Overcrowding ..	14	5	—	11	10	9	49
Animals as a Nuisance	2	3	1	4	5	—	15
Damp and Dilapidated Houses	13	44	26	21	55	53	212
Insufficient Water Supply	—	—	4	—	2	—	6
Other Nuisances ...	81	87	1	34	4	—	207

Table 50.

Summary of District Inspectors' work during 1917, as reported to M.O.H. each week.

DISTRICT.	Total.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	392	60	36	73	60	93	70
Disinfections	429	72	59	79	66	83	70
Revisits to:—							
Infected Houses	1317	186	150	81	146	423	331
Unabated Nuisances and Unremedied Defects	12841	2027	2472	1299	2291	2069	2683
Slaughter Houses	1436	370	438	129	148	241	110
Lodging Houses	522	417	—	105	—	—	—
Bakehouses	861	124	134	122	201	127	153
Cowsheds	242	11	140	39	9	18	25
Dairies	439	73	86	49	60	115	56
Milkshops	186	19	40	7	22	79	19
Factories and Workshops	646	86	146	7	67	180	160
New Buildings (drains of)	196	30	26	40	33	51	16
Special Complaints received	259	61	51	60	81	1	5
Letters written to abate Nuisances:—							
By Inspector	1764	335	295	229	300	332	273
Referred to M.O.H.	413	131	87	32	88	68	7
Referred to Council	1003	238	232	90	100	317	26
New Buildings certified	26	7	6	5	7	1	—
Drain connections:—							
No. of Connections made	5	1	—	—	3	1	—
No. of Houses connected	8	1	—	—	6	1	—
No. of Houses connected to date ..	28020	5499	4370	4567	4231	5084	4269
No. of Houses unconnected to date ..	290	20	12	58	63	67	70
Scavenging—Fines inflicted:—							
Without Brush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Without Bell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Without Cover to Cart	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Improper use of Cover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Improper use of Cart	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Failing to send out Cart	245 -	57/6	130/-	15/-	22 6	10/-	—
Neglecting Back Lanes... ..	25/-	—	—	15/-	5/-	5/-	—
Neglecting to use Brush	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neglecting to Clear Ashbin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scavenging after 1 p.m.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Depositing on unauthorized ground ..	52/6	—	10/-	17/6	25/-	—	—

Rhondda Urban District.

Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1917, and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1912	157,951	5,202	5,236	33·1	2,108	13·3	30	104	666	127	2,182	13·8
1913	162,137	5,479	5,505	34·0	2,277	14·0	27	110	766	139	2,360	14·6
1914	162,592	5,541	5,558	34·2	2,336	14·4	39	113	762	137	2,410	14·8
1915	156,260	4,960	4,983	*30·0	2,148	13·7	43	113	567	114	2,218	14·2
1916	153,373	4,481	...	*26·8	1,845	12·0	35	130	471	105	1,940	12·6
1917	154,388	4,145	...	*24·1	1,851	12·0	25	151	425	103	1,977	12·2

NOTES :—This table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. The corrected number of births is not available for the years 1916 and 1917.

Rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

*The birth-rate (Column 5) for 1915, is calculated upon a population of 166,365 (unrevised estimate 1914) and that for the year 1916 upon 166,873, and that for 1917 upon 172,099, in accordance with the advice of the Registrar-General.

The deaths included in Column 6 are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 6, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 8, and the addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are similarly corrected by the subtraction of deaths under one included in the number given in Column 8, and by the addition of the deaths under one included in the number given in Column 9. The numbers for the years 1916 and 1917 in Column 8 include two and three soldiers respectively who died in the district.

“Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they re-ided.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered
by water). } 23,885.

Table II. RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1917.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in the whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Ward.										No. of Cases removed to the Hospital from each Ward.										Total Cases removed to Hospital.				
	All Ages.	All Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65																						65 and upwards			
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	108	45	55	5	2	1	..	4	...	...	1	17	6	10	11	4	15	15	23	6	...	8	...	3	6	3	10	14	17	1	62
Erysipelas	42	1	2	4	18	11	4	...	...	...	4	3	2	2	2	5	3	2	7	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	184	76	97	6	5	7	17	3	4	27	7	27	22	51	19	...	6	8	...	5	15	2	20	17	23	9	105
Typhus Fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	45	1	13	16	12	3	...	...	...	...	5	6	..	6	9	4	..	10	4	1	...	5	7	...	8	9	7	1	9	2	48
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	5	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	10	...	...	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	74	74	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12	9	3	3	6	3	8	15	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	219	1	7	16	53	102	38	2	...	...	21	21	9	13	36	23	19	28	31	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	107	6	21	31	28	14	7	...	...	...	11	11	3	3	14	11	13	12	15	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2337	122	136	817	30	21	1	...	...	...	66	45	34	19	456	133	233	304	471	516	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
German Measles	241	8	80	138	9	5	1	...	...	...	3	50	8	20	48	16	31	41	18	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	3376	213	1578	1173	156	187	63	6	128	182	75	82	609	212	406	444	639	599

The localities (Wards) adopted for this Table are the same as those in Table III.

Isolation Hospitals (provided by the Urban District Council) :—

1. Tyntyla Isolation Hospital (Ward 4) } Total available beds, 110.
2. Penrhys Isolation Hospital (Ward 9) } Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ; 6

Table III.—Causes of, and ages at, Death, during the Year 1917 (continued on next three pages).

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths in or belonging to the whole District at subjoined ages.										Deaths in or belonging to Wards (at all ages).										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.		
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Ward 1.	Ward 2.	Ward 3.	Ward 4.	Ward 5.	Ward 6.	Ward 7.	Ward 8.	Ward 9.	Ward 10.	89			47
All Causes	{ Certified... Uncertified	1964 13	412 13	129 ...	116 ...	95 ...	113 ...	280 ...	492 1	327 ...	161 ...	202 ...	143 1	124 3	201 1	164 1	148 ...	266 3	335 ...	220 4	...	...
1. Enteric Fever	...	6	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	52	10	25	16	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	1	...	8	4	4	10	14	7	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	...	5	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	26	9	7	10	8	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	2	4	1	5	2	5	...	...
6. Diphtheria and Croup	...	23	...	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	4	1	4	1	6	2	...	...
7. Influenza	...	28	1	1	...	1	3	6	7	9	...	1	...	1	1	2	...	4	10	9	...	...
8. Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	153	...	...	3	14	35	70	29	2	13	14	11	11	18	18	11	11	27	19	15	...
10. Tuberculous Meningitis	...	22	3	2	4	9	3	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	5	3	1	4	6	...	...	...
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	31	2	...	2	4	8	8	7	...	4	5	1	1	4	3	1	1	6	5	...	...
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	91	...	...	1	...	1	11	57	21	8	6	7	8	9	3	11	17	13	2	...	...
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	7	...	...	...	3	2	4	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Meningitis	...	21	4	1	2	7	3	4	...	...	...	...	3	3	1	1	3	...	6	1	...	...
15. Organic Heart Disease	...	181	3	...	1	11	9	27	83	47	21	22	18	9	18	14	13	24	21	21	...	...
16. Bronchitis	...	222	38	14	10	4	2	5	69	80	17	12	12	10	18	23	20	36	53	21	...	...
17. Pneumonia	...	225	62	52	20	4	7	22	47	11	17	26	24	15	27	18	14	37	37	20	...	...

Table III.—*continued.*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18. Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	18	...	...	1	4	1	...	2	8	2	1	...	...	...	4	3	...	2	5	3	1
19. Diarrhea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	44	36	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	14	...	3	4	4	...	1	4	4	...
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	9	...	...	...	1	4	1	3	...	...	1	2	2	...	3	...	1	2	1	...	3
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
21a. Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	68	...	...	1	3	3	2	15	33	11	6	5	...	4	8	9	1	12	12	6	...
23. Puerperal Fever ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	...
24. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	27	...	...	...	...	...	6	21	...	...	1	7	4	2	2	1	3	...	4	3	...
25. Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	173	169	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	22	25	15	10	13	9	11	20	29	19	...
26 Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	79	6	...	3	6	7	12	24	17	4	6	11	5	3	8	3	8	11	15	9	2
27. Suicide	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
28. Other Defined Diseases	442	81	...	8	16	14	12	47	126	138	31	44	35	34	43	39	38	64	60	54	28
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown	6	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	2	98
Rhonda	1977	425	129	116	95	113	280	492	327	161	202	144	127	202	165	148	269	335	224	89	
Sub-entries included in above figures.																					
11 (a) Tabes Mesenterica	12	1	...	...	1	3	1	2	4	...	2	3	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	1	...
(b) General Tuberculosis	10	...	...	...	1	...	6	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	3	2	1
14 Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
17 (a) Lobar Pneumonia	42	...	...	1	1	...	10	23	2	...	7	2	1	1	4	1	1	11	5	6	...
(b) Lobular Pneumonia	149	55	49	19	4	1	4	12	5	...	9	15	11	11	18	14	11	24	23	13	1
19 (a) Diarrhea (under 2 years)...	10	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	14	2	3	...	1	1	1	1	4	...
(b) Enteritis (under 2 years)...	34	29	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	4	3	1	1	3	...	...
25 (a) Congenital Malformations	21	20	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...	1	5	1	5	3	4	...
(b) Premature Birth	72	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11	7	10	5	4	6	7	11	...
(c) Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	80	77	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	15	3	3	2	3	6	9	19	4	...
26 (a) Burns (including Scalds)...	10	1	2	4	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	...	3	2	1

Table III.—continued.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
(b) Accidental Suffocation
28 Chicken Pox	5	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..
Typhus Fever	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Tetanus	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Mumps	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Verebral Diseases	...	6	4	..	1	3	1	4	2	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	2
Other Septic Diseases	...	11	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..
Rickets	4	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Exophthalmic Goitre	...	1	..	..	..	2	..	4	4	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	1	5	..	..	..
Diabetes	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Hæmophelia	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	2	..	1	3	2	2	1
Pernicious Anæmia	...	14	..	..	..	..	1	7	5	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Rheumatoid Arthritis	...	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	..	..	..
Abscess of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
General Paralysis of the Insane	...	9	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	3	1	1
Epilepsy	12	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	1	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	..
Convulsions	56	47	4	4	1	2	1	40	37	7	6	5	5	7	4	8	14	12	6	..
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	78	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	1	1	2	1	3	4	6	9	8	12	5
Cerebral Tumour	...	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	1	1	2	1	1	13	1	..	..	1	..
Locomotor Ataxy	...	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Chorea	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	...	10	3	1	..	..	1	1	8	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	3	2	1	2
Otitis Media	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Aneurysm	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..
Arterial Sclerosis	...	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Septic Phlebitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Embolism and Thrombosis	...	12	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	3	1	5	2	1	1	..	1	1	2	..	..
Stomatitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..

Table III.—continued.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Gastric Ulcer ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Intestinal Obstruction ...	9	3	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Strangulated Hernia ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gallstone ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Peritonitis ..	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uterine Tumour (non-cancerous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prostatic Hypertrophy	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hydrocephalus ..	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea (over 2 years)	6	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Enteritis (over 2 years)	20	...	...	4	2	2	1	6	1	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Gastritis ...	22	12	...	2	1	...	2	1	4	3	4	...	...	...	...	2	10	...	5	...
Old Age ...	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	66	7	...	...	...	...	8	6	10	10	4	...
Hemiplegia ...	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...

Table M. 13 (L.G.B.)**Causes of Death in Rhondda Urban District for 1917.**

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only) ...			1077	908
1	Enteric Fever ..	...	1	5
2	Small-pox ...	...	—	—
3	Measles ...	...	26	29
4	Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	4
5	Whooping cough ..	...	9	18
6	Diphtheria and croup ...	...	11	12
7	Influenza ..	...	15	16
8	Erysipelas ...	...	—	1
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	71	88
10	Tuberculous meningitis	...	17	9
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	16	11
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	40	51
13	Rheumatic fever ...	...	3	5
14	Meningitis ..	...	7	6
15	Organic heart disease	...	90	83
16	Bronchitis ..	...	125	80
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	141	83
18	Other respiratory diseases	...	21	12
19	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	26	18
20	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	7	3
21	Cirrhosis of liver ..	...	3	1
21A	Alcoholism ...	...	—	—
22	Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	30	29
23	Puerperal fever ...	...	—	7
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	—	21
25	Congenital debility, &c.	...	95	63
26	Violence, apart from suicide	...	76	16
27	Suicide ..	...	3	1
28	Other defined diseases	...	242	234
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	1	2
Special Causes (included in above)—				
	Cerebro-spinal fever ..	...	1	1
	Polio-myelitis ...	...	—	—
	Typhus fever ..	...	1	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age..			246	181
TOTAL BIRTHS			2191	1987
	Legitimate ...	...	2118	1927
	Illegitimate ..	...	73	60
POPULATION FOR BIRTH-RATE				172,099
,, FOR DEATH-RATE				154,388
GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, W.C.2.				April, 1918.

N.B.—The total number of deaths according to the above Table is eight in excess of the corresponding number given in Table III. on the previous page. The discrepancy is probably due to the difficulty of allocating with certainty to their respective districts deaths occurring in other areas, when the addresses given may be incomplete and when no local knowledge is possessed by those making the allocation. Similarly a discrepancy exists in the total number of births, that given in the above Table being 33 in excess of that used in Table I.

THE ANNUAL

REPORT

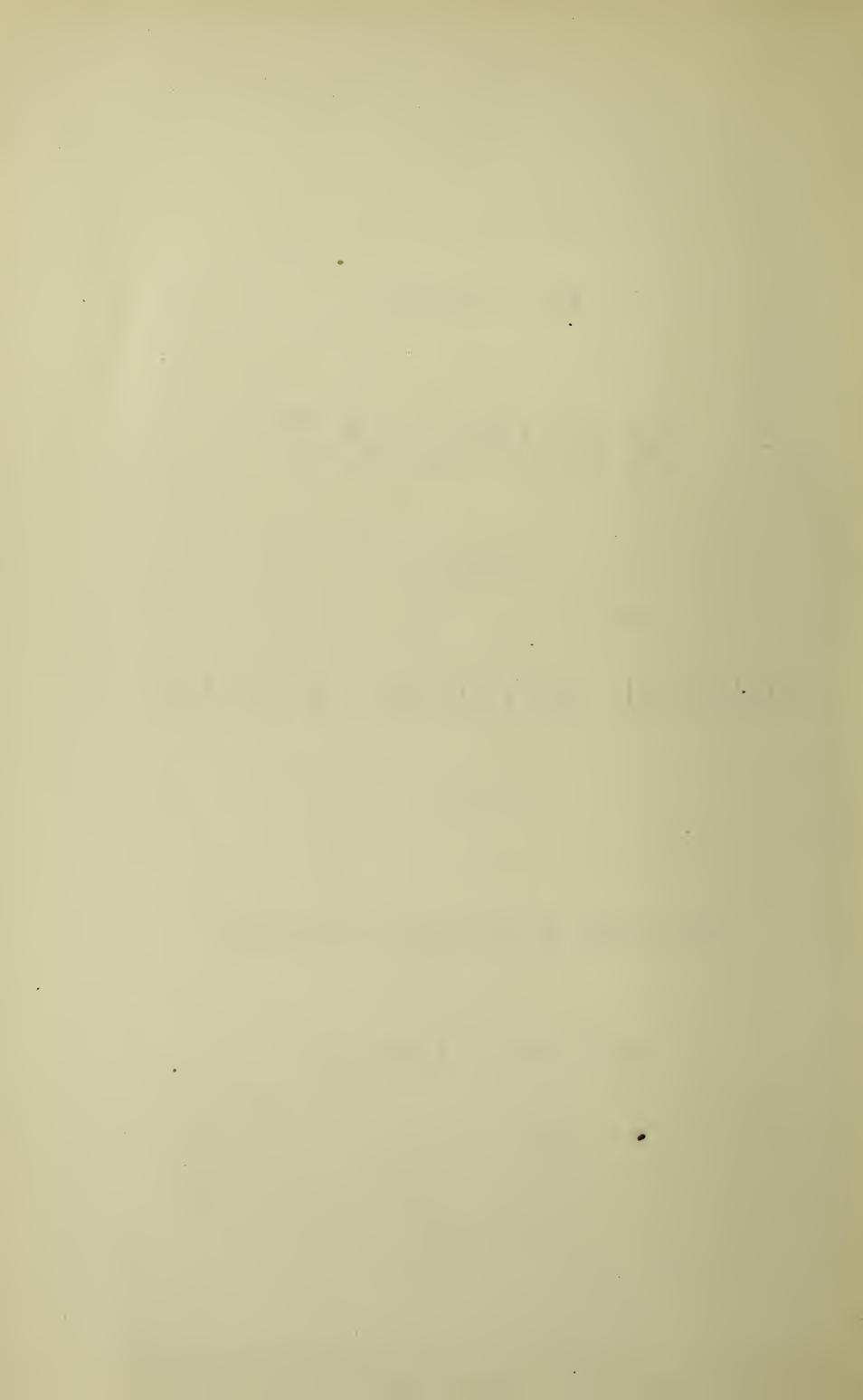
OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TO THE

Rhondda Education Authority

FOR THE YEAR 1917.



Rhondda Urban District Council

Members of the Rhondda Education Committee.

COUNCILLOR EVAN JOSHUA RODERICK (Chairman).

Mrs. FLORENCE NICHOLAS (co-opted Member).

COUNCILLOR GWILYM LLOYD.

- „ DAN DAVIES, J.P.
- „ REES MORGAN REES.
- „ ALFRED GLADSTONE TRIBE.
- „ JOHN MINTON.
- „ WILLIAM PHILLIP THOMAS, J.P.
- „ DAVID THOMAS, J.P.
- „ WILLIAM LEWIS.
- „ WALTER WILLIAMS.
- „ WILLIAM EVANS THOMAS, M.D., J.P.
- „ THOMAS THOMAS.
- „ JAMES JAMES.
- „ WILLIAM SAMUEL LANE.
- „ THOMAS OWEN.
- „ THOMAS R. DAVIES.
- „ MARK HARCOMBE.
- „ JAMES NICHOLAS (2 months).
- „ JOHN D. WILLIAMS, J.P. (9 months).
- „ EDGAR MORGAN.
- „ LEWIS HOPKIN.
- „ GWILYM ROWLANDS.
- „ JOHN TALWRN JONES.
- „ THOMAS GRIFFITHS, J.P.
- „ BENJAMIN DAVIES.
- „ ALFRED JOHN ORCHARD,

COUNCILLOR ROWLAND HUGHES.

„ WILLIAM HENRY MATHIAS, J.P.
 „ EDWARD THOMAS WOOD.
 „ JOHN THOMAS, J.P.
 „ ABEL JACOB.
 „ HENRY EDWARD MALTBY.
 „ DANIEL EVANS, J.P.
 „ HORATIO ABRAHAM PHILLIPS.

Clerk to the Committee: W. P. NICHOLAS.

Director of Education: T. W. BERRY.

Inspector of Schools: R. R. WILLIAMS.

Architect: JACOB REES.

School Medical Officer: J. D. JENKINS.

Assistant School Medical Officer:

J. P. H. DAVIES,

Ophthalmic Surgeon: J. W. G. MYLER.

Medical Inspection Clerk: H. R. JONES.

School Nurses:

Miss MADELEINE JOHN.
 „ E. GERTRUDE JENKINS.
 „ EDITH GRIFFITHS.
 Mrs. LAURA JONES.
 Miss MYFANWY GRIFFITH.
 „ ELIZABETH HUGHES.
 „ KEZIAH EDWARDS.
 „ SOPHIA THOMAS.

For Portion of Year:—

Miss GLADYS DAVIES.
 „ GERTRUDE WATTS.
 „ SOPHY WILLIAMS.
 „ ELIZABETH TERRY.

Rhondda Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

MRS. NICHOLAS AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my tenth annual report as your School Medical Officer for the year ended December 31st, 1917.

Much curtailment of the report has become necessary owing to the shortage of both *personnel* and *matériel*.

It is however a matter for satisfaction that it has been found practicable, not only to continue throughout the year the work begun in 1916 in the examination by an ophthalmic surgeon of the children discovered to be suffering from defective vision, but also to make arrangements by the end of the year for the whole-time employment of a dental surgeon for the examination at the schools and for the treatment at a specially equipped clinic of the dentally defective children belonging to specified groups in attendance at such of the elementary schools as these means will render it possible to visit.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.D. Jenkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

School Medical Officer.

The Council Offices,
Rhondda.

Rhondda Urban District Council

GENERAL INFORMATION.

For the purposes of this report, the population for the Rhondda Urban District in 1917 is estimated at 172,099 persons.. The number of children on the school registers in June, 1917, was 35,303, and the average attendance recorded was 31,143. The number of schools and departments remained unchanged at 43 and 104 respectively, with a total accommodation for 36,923 children.

ADMINISTRATION.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and there were, prior to the war, two whole-time medical assistants in the Health Department, who devoted the greater portion of their time to the School Medical Service.

During 1917 Dr. Helena G. Jones gave a small portion of her time to School Medical work until June, while from that time until the end of the year Dr. Evelyn Davidson acted as temporary whole-time Assistant School Medical Officer. Dr. J. W. G. Myler, as ophthalmic surgeon, devoted two afternoons a week to the examination at the clinic of cases of defective vision among school children.

SCOPE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

No material change was made in the arrangements for and in the scope of the medical inspection for the year, the children examined at each of the schools visited being limited to the following:—

(a) All those children of whatever age who, in the opinion of the parents, teachers, medical inspectors, or others, required medical attention at the time of the inspection;

(b) The leavers, or all those who may, in the ordinary course of events, leave school before the next medical examination will fall due; and

(c) The tuberculosis contacts, or all those who are known or believed to come into more or less close contact, at their homes or elsewhere, with cases of tuberculosis. Some members of this group fall as a matter of course within the other groups, but a knowledge of the special circumstances makes it desirable that the medical inspection should in these cases be carried out with unusual care, special attention being given to the parts known to be the most frequent seats of this disease.

The total number of children examined during the year amounted to 4,048, made up of the groups shown in Table I. (A) and (B), and therefore inclusive of 353 re-examinations.

Table I.

Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

A. "Code" Groups.

Age	Entrants.						Inter- mediate Group.	Leavers.						Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.		8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	9	32	75	73	15	204	—	243	114	6	12	375	579	
Girls	11	41	90	90	27	259	6	138	96	9	4	253	512	
Totals	20	73	165	163	42	463	6	381	210	15	16	628	1091	

B. Groups other than "Code."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (i.e, number of children re-examined).
Boys ..	--	1237	143
Girls ...	--	1307	210
Totals ...	--	2604	353

**GENERAL REVIEW OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY
MEDICAL INSPECTION.**

The following table (No. 2) shows the number, character, and percentage proportions of the defects found on the inspection of 4,048 children. The scope of the medical inspection having been altered in 1915, this table is not comparable with the corresponding table published before that year. When that for 1916 is made the basis for comparison, it will be seen that there is a higher proportion in 1917 of cases of squint, defective vision, carious teeth, and non-contagious skin diseases, while the percentages of cases of heart disease, enlarged tonsils, adenoids and mouth breathers, ear disease, tuberculosis (of all parts), subnormal nutrition, and pediculosis, were higher in the previous year.

The relatively large number of "special" cases included among those examined and the method of selection adopted render it unsafe to draw any conclusions as to the condition of the school population as a whole. The personal equation also is a highly important factor in the causation of the differences in the figures for the two years, especially when the medical examinations are conducted by inspectors possessing no previous experience of this particular work. The same observation applies to the number of children to whose parents or guardians

notices were sent in respect of the defects discovered. These informative notices amounted to 3,353 in 1917, as compared with 762, 565, 569, 664, and 1,034 respectively in the five preceding years.

Table 2.

Disease or Defect.	No. of Children suffering from each disease or defect.	Proportion per cent. of the number suffering to the number examined.
Skin : Contagious (excluding Ringworm) ..	52	1.28
Skin : Non-contagious	153	3.78
Ringworm of head	19	0.47
Ringworm of body	3	0.07
Heart disease	46	1.14
Anæmia	224	5.53
Lung disease (non-tuberculous)	76	1.88
Nervous affections	31	0.77
Mentally defective	48	1.19
Enlarged tonsils	1077	26.61
Mouth Breathers	87	2.15
Adenoids	114	2.82
Enlarged glands (non-tubercular)	155	3.83
Defective speech	61	1.51
External eye disease... ..	218	5.38
Squint	582	14.38
Defective vision	1529	37.77
Ear disease	68	1.68
Deafness	72	1.78
Carious teeth (4 or over)	1425	35.20
Rickets	28	0.69
Hernia	12	0.30
Deformities and Tumours	46	1.14
Enlarged Thyroid Gland	—	—
Infectious Disease	13	0.32
Tuberculosis of Lungs	3	0.07
" " Glands	4	0.10
" " Bone	4	0.10
" " other parts	1	0.02
" " all parts	12	0.30
Subnormal Nutrition	145	3.58
General Neglect	29	0.72
Pediculosis	212	5.24
Other diseases	73	1.80

Table II. gives the number of defects found amongst the 4,048 children examined, together with the numbers in the Code and Special Groups who were respectively

Table II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1917.

Disease or Defect.		Code Groups.		Specials.	
		No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation.	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation.
	Malnutrition ...	95	—	49	1
	Uncleanliness—				
	Head ...	101	—	150	—
	Body ...	28	—	14	—
	Ringworm—				
	Head ...	—	—	19	—
	Body ...	—	—	3	—
Skin.	Scabies ...	3	—	21	—
	Impetigo ...	8	—	26	—
	Other disease ...	45	1	101	—
Eye.	Defective vision & squint ...	901	4	1206	—
	External Eye disease ...	65	—	153	—
Ear.	Defective Hearing ...	8	2	62	—
	Ear disease ...	18	—	50	—
Teeth.	Dental disease ...	607	—	818	—
Nose	Enlarged tonsils ...	431	1	610	2
and	Adenoids ...	2	2	90	1
Throat.	Enlarged tonsils and Adenoids ...	3	4	14	4
	Defective Speech ...	23	1	33	4
Heart	Heart disease—				
and	Organic ...	10	—	9	—
Circula-	Functional ...	3	—	6	—
tion.	Anæmia ...	48	5	176	13
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis:				
	Definite ...	—	—	3	—
Lungs.	Suspected ...	2	—	3	3
	Chronic Bronchitis ...	22	7	38	4
	Other disease ...	—	—	5	—
Nervous	Epilepsy ...	—	—	—	—
System.	Chorea ...	—	—	1	—
	Other disease ...	16	—	12	2
	Non puln. onary Tubercu-				
	losis—				
	Glands ...	1	3	4	—
	Bone and Joints ...	—	—	3	1
	Other forms ...	—	—	1	—
	Rickets ...	17	—	4	1
	Deformities ...	22	2	28	6
	Other defects or disease...	65	2	134	19

referred for treatment or required to be kept under observation. Reference has already been made to the percentage proportions of some of the defects found, and it is of interest to compare the figures for subnormal nutrition and defective clothing and footgear, for the year under review, with those for previous years.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Nutrition	3.68	1.25	11.6	3.28
Clothing	1.10	0.57	3.84	2.2
Footgear	2.40	1.18	1.72	1.6

It will be seen that after a certain amount of fluctuation during 1915 and 1916, the figures for the present year approximate fairly closely to those for 1914, but in this connection also it is important to bear in mind the influence of the personal factor in view of the changes experienced during these three years in the *personnel* of the inspecting staff.

TUBERCULOSIS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Since the notification of cases of tuberculosis occurring in the community generally became compulsory, the plan of medically examining, at the routine inspections carried out at the schools, all children who habitually come into more or less close association with the notified cases has been adopted, and the results from the point of view of diagnosis are shown in the appended table.

Three cases, or 1.6 per cent., were found to be definitely suffering from tuberculosis, and 10 cases, or 5.5 per cent., were classified as doubtful. The first of these proportions is more than five times as high as the 0.30 per cent.

Table showing the result of the examination of Tuberculosis contacts.

Result of Examination.	Sex.	Totals	Among the Entrants.	Among the Leavers.	Among Remaining Children.
Positive ...	Boys ...	2	—	—	2
	Girls ...	1	—	—	1
Doubtful ...	Boys ...	5	—	—	5
	Girls ...	5	—	—	5
Negative ...	Boys ...	81	8	16	57
	Girls ...	87	12	10	65
	Boys ...	88	8	16	64
	Girls ...	93	12	10	71
	Totals ...	181	20	26	135

shown in Table 2 above as pertaining to the total number of children examined throughout the year. The children definitely diagnosed as tuberculous are referred to their medical attendants for treatment, and those believed to be capable of conveying the disease to others are excluded from school. The homes of the contacts, being in nearly all instances occupied by one or more notified cases of tuberculosis, are already under the surveillance of the health visitors.

In Table III. will be found a return of exceptional children in the area in 1917. The numbers given in the respective categories are not exhaustive for the whole district, but comprise those brought to the notice of the department and those discovered in the course of the medical inspection which was carried out at the schools and which was incomplete owing to the conditions produced by the war.

Table III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1917.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind)— Attending Public Elementary School ..	7	5	12
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf)— Attending Public Elementary School ..	4	5	9
Mentally Deficient— Feeble-minded attending Public Elementary School	24	19	43
Imbeciles at School	—	—	—
Idiots	—	—	—
Epilepsy— Attending Public Elementary School ..	2	3	5
Physically Defective : Pulmonary Tuberculosis— Attending Public Elementary School ..	21	20	41
Other forms of Tuberculosis— Attending Public Elementary School ...	6	10	16
Not at School	1	1	2
Cripples other than Tubercular— Attending Public Elementary School ...	21	28	49
Not at School	1	—	1
Dull or Backward	35	23	58

THE METHOD OF FOLLOWING UP DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

No material change was introduced during the year in connection with the following-up of children found defective on medical examination. The staff of School Nurses was however increased from eight to twelve in the course of the year, but all of them also performed duties in connection with some of the other activities of the Health Department, such as maternity and child welfare and the control of measles. In the aggregate 403 visits were paid by them as school nurses to the schools, and 6,373 visits to the homes of school children. Much of the information required for completing

Tables IV. and V. was thus obtained through their agency. These two tables refer to the result of the treatment of the defects of new and old cases during 1917, and should be considered in conjunction. It will be observed that Table V. indicates the number of children, irrespective of defects, who were dealt with during the year.

Table IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1917.

CONDITION.	No. of defects found for which treatment was necessary.			No. of defects for which no Report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Result of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Per cent. of defects treated.
	From previous years.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing ...	14	93	107	96	4	—	4	—	7	3·74
Footgear ..	1	66	67	66	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cleanliness of Head ..	139	251	390	286	66	33	31	2	38	17·10
Cleanliness of Body ..	24	42	66	54	8	6	2	—	4	12·12
Nutrition ..	25	145	170	119	33	10	21	5	15	21·18
Nose and Throat ..	1750	1164	2914	881	1149	653	259	237	884	32·57
External Eye Disease ..	199	218	417	184	172	121	42	9	61	41·25
Ear Disease ..	175	68	243	106	105	36	40	29	32	47·33
Teeth ..	2124	1425	3549	939	768	363	252	153	1842	21·64
Heart and Circulation ..	216	270	486	148	219	59	115	45	119	45·06
Lungs ..	181	87	268	127	96	52	30	14	45	35·82
Nervous System ..	30	31	61	41	15	1	11	3	5	24·60
Skin ..	262	227	489	186	259	208	41	10	44	52·97
Rickets ..	13	22	35	28	1	—	1	—	6	2·86
Deformities ...	73	58	131	90	19	4	7	8	22	14·50
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	27	13	40	30	6	3	1	2	4	15·00
Speech ...	38	61	99	80	9	—	3	6	10	9·09
Mental Condition ..	52	42	94	53	8	1	6	1	33	8·33
Vision and Squint ..	621	2111	2732	1360	789	490	175	124	583	28·88
Hearing ..	87	72	159	63	60	17	32	11	36	37·74
Miscellaneous ..	115	226	341	111	127	89	20	18	103	37·24
TOTALS ..	6166	6692	12858	5048	3916	2146	1093	677	3894	30·46

It will be seen from Table IV. that 30 per cent. of the defects were treated, 25 per cent. were remedied or improved, while 30 per cent. were left untreated, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 62 per cent., 42 per cent., and 15 per cent. respectively.

Table V.

Inspection, Treatment, etc., of children during 1917.

1. The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing Child)	4,048
2. The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	95
3. The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	3,353
4. The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	1,177

On the other hand (see Table V.), 85 per cent. of the children examined were found to be suffering from defects other than uncleanness or defective clothing, 82 per cent. were referred for treatment, and 2 per cent. were kept under observation. Of those referred for treatment, it was ascertained that in 35 per cent. some form of treatment was received. Amongst the 3,448 defective children there were discovered 6,692 defects (other than uncleanness, &c.), or an average of 1.9 defects per child.

TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Treatment by the Local Authority is at present confined to the examination at the Council's clinic of cases of defective vision and the prescription of spectacles where indicated by a part-time ophthalmic surgeon. For this purpose 571 children were examined during the year,

and in the case of 244 of them the procedure followed,—including the examination of the spectacles when obtained,—was completed, while the remaining 327 were still awaiting the surgeon's further observation at the end of the year (see appended table). The number of cases considered to be necessitous amounted to 45, and received pecuniary assistance from the Council.

The Clinic—Inspection in 1917.

Purposes for which used.	Times used.	No. Examined.	No. referred for further Examination.
Defective Vision	100	571	327
Special Examinations	12	44	4
Pupil Teacher Candidates	9	56	34
TOTALS ...	121	671	365

The accompanying table also gives the number of other special examinations carried out at the institution, the figures given in the second being inclusive of those in the last column.

DENTAL TREATMENT. A whole-time dental surgeon was appointed in the latter half of the year for the purpose of dealing with instances of dental defects among selected groups of children attending the elementary schools, but in view of the difficulty expected to arise in connection with the equipment of a school clinic, it was arranged that he should not commence his duties until January 1st, 1918.

OTHER FACILITIES FOR OBTAINING TREATMENT.

In normal times the contract system of medical practice obtaining in this district made it possible for practically every child to obtain medical advice and treatment without additional expense, but pressure of work, both at the hospitals and in private practice, is rendering it increasingly difficult to deal with the minor ailments of school children.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Except in the direction of increased activity in the control of measles rendered possible by the appointment of more health visitors or school nurses, no progress was found practicable during the year towards the provision of open-air schools, special classes or schools for mentally defective children, or other directions desirable in the interests of the school medical service in the district.



Rhondda Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR 1917.

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